The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

A NEW YORK EPISODE.

BY EDITH BROWN NELSON.

Author of "Joined for Life," "Hidden From Sight," "Tales of the Period," "My Schoolmate's Story," Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER VII.

"This is not the time or place to answer difficult questions, Letty. We must go down immediately; but if your aunt has no objection, you shall know all that I can tell when the wedding is over."

With these words Mrs. Drummond recalled me to myself and the exigencies of the occasion, and I hurried to my post in the bridal group, now forming in Delia's boudoir.

The Drummonds had been long renowned for the elegance and refinement of their entertainments. The hostess possessed to perfection an art equaled by few other women in our set, that of reducing both her social and household duties to a system that ensured harmony and comfort wherever she moved. Mrs. Drummond kept her servants longer than anybody else, and yet she paid them half as much as other people. Mrs. Drummond always had cards of admission for parties, but those hooded people were always without. She dressed herself and daughter charmingly upon nothing, for no visible income but the pension of an officer's widow was hers. Still the smile of capricious Dame Fortune hovered forever over her clever, graceful head; and before Delia was out of the nursery of her ambition! Delia, in her eighteenth year, married to the grand "parti" of the season, and herself willingly invited by the bridegroom to take charge of the elaborate *ménage* of the happy pair.

"She ought to have been a man, with such administrative abilities," signed Aunt Flavia, who never affected lavish use of anything save explicit dressing; but what is administrative ability alone, or the fact of her large knowledge of the private affairs of great people as well, that filled the hall at the right moment always to her pretty little feet?

A blonde haired, fine featured, delicate little creature, she retained a youthful appearance wonderfully, and with all the burden of her own and other people's secrets, kept a brow fair and smooth as an infant's. Remembering all these years, as I had heard about her for years, I inwardly shivered at the idea she had been my mother's closest friend and confidant. But she was right to defer executing revelations, for already I was so thrilling with the anticipation that I caught the eyes of Dr. Felix fixed upon me from the far end of the room anxiously observant, I supposed, of my blazing cheeks and brilliant eyes. No one, certainly, could accuse me of looking pale or spiritless now. The conviction that a crisis both in fate and feelings was impending, gave me as good courage to await it as his own. The soft brilliance of the lights which none knew better how to subdue than our hostess, the rare fragrance of the flowers which lavishly adorned the rooms, the elegant dresses of my elegant friends, all seemed unconsciously to stimulate my pride to-night, more than once the thought would cross my mind, "these things of luxury and pomp will soon be mine no more."

As these thoughts came into my head with a singular mixture of admiration and disgust, I regarded that Kohl-noor of priceless worth, the man who had "struck oil," the great Dipwell. But young and raw as such a man of uncultured manners and address had applied to Mrs. Drummond in my presence for a menial position in her household, and been rejected as far too rough and rude even to groom her horses; and to-day to such a man as gross in mind, as ignorant in manners, she gladly gives her only daughter! True it is that, "fortune reigns in the gifts of the world, not in the lineaments of Nature."

I will be the last to censure my friend guilty of any base action, past, present or to come, in his life," I answered, proudly. Then he was gone and Mrs. Drummond stood before me.

A marvellous contrast to the vehement emotion of the last few minutes was she in her soft dove-colored silk raiment and her pleasant, even voice. If she perceived the sources of my mental distress she had tact enough not to seem to notice it, and sitting down at my side drew her cool fingers over my throbbing temples and occupied herself for forgetting her promise so long.

"We are both tired enough by the excitements of this day to without needing any more," she began, still caressing my hair with her white hand and steadying my nerves with the perfect balance of her own. "Still I know when I was yourself I should not sleep if my curiosity was left unsatisfied, so I shall tell you in a few minutes, for your aunt is impatient to go home."

"Why does Aunt Flavia wish to leave me?" I asked, with a sudden pang of fear, and then I stopped and covered up my face, remembering Dr. Feather's last words.

"You would not wish to needlessly agitate me, I'm sure, love," pursued my companion, quietly as ever, but with the cool and careful subtlety of the skilful surgeon who knows just how far and how further he can apply the deadly probe. "Before we enter into particulars, which Flavia can give you to-morrow far better than I can, let me ask you one question. Have you never been led to imagine your mother died in any unusual manner?"

"O heavens, no!" She raised her hand warningly.

"If you have not the strength of mind I imagined, I shall tell you no more," she said, with tranquil determination. I knew her resolution of old, and so did Delia, the child who had sacrificed this very evening. Concentrating all my eagerness in my eyes, I riveted them on her impassive face, and waited without a word for further revelation.

"In our world," she resumed, after a prolonged pause, "we women must not imitate the selfishness of our dependants, and marry only to please ourselves. Your mother was very like you, Letty, in every way: that is why I am so fond of you; but she committed one grave error, poor dear soul. She let her feelings run away with her, and was on the point of marrying a poor man when I and your father stepped in and saved her."

She paused once more, watching me narrowly, but, with a smile of approval at my self-control, went on:

"After the very excellent marriage I persuaded your mother to make with Mr. Doolittle, everything went smoothly for a while. Then this young man—a young English doctor by the name of Featherstone—thought fit to settle from the village where he had been trying to establish a practice, and in the most bludgeoning fashion informed your father of his former presumptuous claims. This information created a suspicion that the subsequent events, I am sorry to say, increased. Your mother has often come sobbing to me over her troubles, threatened on one side by repeated reproaches and bitter invective from the disappointed lover, and on the other by your father's natural jealousy. Now Letty, if you can bear quite brave, I will end this story to-morrow."

"No, please finish quickly," I entreated, and she complied in the briefest possible fashion.

"Your poor, dear mother fell sick, which made us all very anxious, as at that time we expected you, Letty, to come shortly into this wicked world, and the whim seized her to disregard Dr. Feather and but the very man she had jilted, but who now had achieved a fine reputation in New York in a very short time. The poor misguided creature actually trusted his jealous and revengeful lover and would confide her case to no one else. A day or two after your birth Letty, your unhappy mother expired, as every one at the time believed, from the effects of poison administered by the hands of Dr. Felix Featherstone or Feather as he now calls himself. Why Letty, where are you going?"

"I am going where I will not listen no longer to such false and cruel scandals," I sternly answered, trying to pass her as she stood in the way.

The quick, intelligent pity that instantly lighted her calm eyes did more to stagger my faith in the being I most trusted than the most emphatic anger at my disbelief.

"Poor pet, why must I give you all this pain?" she said, soothingly. "What Flavia thinks it necessary. The actual crime may not be, but public opinion after the sad event certainly drove him back to his own country, and he had no right to return where he would be recognized. Why, I knew him to be the same man, with all the change that his white hair gives, from certain characteristic traits, before the evening was half over. Letty love, the greatest villians always preach morality, and the wickedness of a world that repudiates them. It is of course nothing but interest in you as the child of my old friend that prompts this exposure of the miserable man. He had sworn to be avenged for a woman's broken vow, and he was so even to the extent of casting a hideous suspicion in your father's mind about the innocent babe left him."

"I—I don't think I can bear more!" I said, putting out my hand confusedly for something to lean upon, for the strength was leaving my limbs. I felt her kisses with perfect apathy, and the tears falling fast upon my face from worldly eyes that rarely wept, but I was conscious of but one instantaneous feeling—that that moment of agony at the discovery of Dr. Feather's guilt I knew also that I loved him.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

There is a steady increase as to numbers and strength in Young Men's Christian Associations, and a large and increasing degree of success in the important branch of benevolent work to which they are specially devoted.

Well, it was of no use worrying myself into a fever but, oh how I wished she would come! Unconsciously I uttered the wish aloud, walking restlessly to and fro in Delia's most descried boudoir for the last guest had departed, Aunt Flavia had disappeared with Mrs. Drummond the very moment I wished to question both, and I was obliged to wait till they came to me again.

"Oh, I wish, I wish she would come," I cried. And Dr. Felix, emerging mysteriously, as was his wont at the very moment I needed him, came from the adjoining room and answered me, to my surprise, with a perfect understanding of my wishes.

"I wish to see Mrs. Drummond? Well, she will not keep you waiting much longer, he said;" and his tone was so peculiar, so full of repressed excitement, that it shook. Equally excited and unseemly was the smile with which he strove to reassure me.

"Don't be so impatient about everything, you child. When will you learn life instead of counting it?" Only a little girl it is a hard lesson, but it must be learnt sooner or later by us all."

What did he mean by these mysterious hints? What did he mean by frightening the color from my cheeks, the hope from my heart, with his wild, wistful eyes?

"Is something dreadful going to happen to me, Dr. Feather?" I said, creeping up to him like a scared child, and clutching at his hand. "If it is so please, *please* tell me yourself instead of anybody else." He sighed and shook his head.

"O, Letty unkind you are," I cried reproachfully, "to let other people tell me miserable things. *Dear* Dr. Felix I am confident now that you and Auntie and Mrs. Drummond have all been long hiding something from me that I ought to know. But I would rather you told me; I am sick of all these concealments, one after the other. I can bear anything now, if I *know*, instead of suspecting, everything."

"Why would you like me, of all your friends, to give you pain?" he demanded, seeking gently to extricate his hand from my eager, imploring hold. "I do not, will not, disguise from you any longer that there are certain strange and sorrowful circumstances connected with your birth that you ought to know, and two weeks—nay, one little week—ago I would have told you all myself, but now, Celestia, I forget me not."

Never before had Dr. Feather called me by my name; never before had his reserved manner so completely collapsed beneath the strain of some strong emotion; but it was not this alone that brought the blood back again vividly to my veins, and stopped my eyes instantly from their fixed gaze. But he never guessed the happy trouble of that moment to me. Two weeks ago he would have given me pain, but now he feared not. He had proved to me himself so entirely I could bear pain of his infliction when I would not endure it from another. One last effort I made to shake his resolution, and then I resigned myself, wearily enough, I am sure, to the doom which I thought was inevitable.

"Your mother was very like you, Letty, in every way: that is why I am so fond of you; but she committed one grave error, poor dear soul. She let her feelings run away with her, and was on the point of marrying a poor man when I and your father stepped in and saved her."

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[TO BE CONTINUED.]

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 4, 1875.

The following bills passed finally: To punish the carrying of concealed weapons; to release foreign insurance agencies from giving duplicate notices of places of business.

The following passed first reading; To authorize borough councils to vacate streets, subject to an appeal to court; requiring recorders to keep general, direct and adsectum indexes; supplement to the act creating an insurance department; providing for the incorporation and regulation of insurance companies (which Mr. Cluffant denounced as intended to wipe out mutual insurance companies); authorizing turnpike companies to surrender to townships parts of their roads. Supplement to the act for the forfeiture of charters of railroad and turnpike corporations; to establish a nautical school at Philadelphia; to prevent the sale of liquor near soldiers' encampments.

Mr. Cooper offered a resolution, which was passed, instructing the Judiciary Committee to report a bill protecting all persons in the right to acquire useful trades.

The Senate confirmed O. H. Miller, as State Librarian, and J. B. Epping, of Pittsburgh, as a notary.

The following bills were read in place:

Mr. Albright—To provide for the transfer of awards of arbitrators, liens and proceedings thereon, also, relative to sales for the stay of execution, where the bail is likely to prove insolvent.

Mr. Lamon—For stay of execution on all judgments.

Mr. Clark—Regulating the issue of venires for jurors.

Mr. Ermentrout—To prevent the dealing of ice or water leased for the production of ice.

The salaries of judges have been a good deal discussed, and the sentiment appears to be settling down on five thousand for city judges, and four thousand for county.

HOUSE.

A resolution was passed to appoint a committee of five to investigate charges against Sergeant-at-Arms Beamish, for writing and publishing a slanderous article relating to Mr. Logan, of Erie, a member of the House.

Afternoon sessions will be hereafter held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The Philadelphia Police Magistrate bill and Mr. Graham's bill regulating the terms of municipal officers, passed finally.

The hour of adjournment was extended and several bills passed first reading. Several reports of committees were also received.

The following passed first reading: Senate supplement to the act authorizing the formation of partnership associations; Senate bills authorizing the entering of compulsory nonsuits and repealing the Indiana township roadlaw; House bills repealing the proviso of section one of the act to provide for the maintenance of soldiers' orphans.

The Susquehanna Boom bill, repealing the law establishing rates of boomage, was reported negatively, on constitutional grounds.

The Vice and Immorality Committee this afternoon agreed to report Mr. Toner's bill repealing local option. Only one member was absent. Messrs. Rodgers and Graham, of Allegheny, and Williams, of Susquehanna, voted against reporting the bill.

SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial

HARRISBURG, February 5, 1875.

The following bills were reported favorably:

To reimburse Mr. Waters, of Uniontown, for clothing furnished to soldiers' orphans.

Fixing the salaries of county officers in counties having over one hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants. It fixes the salaries of Allegheny county as follows: Sheriff, $7,000; Prothonotary, $6,000; Recorder and Prosecuting Attorney, $5,000; Register, Clerk and Treasurer, $4,000 each; Coroner and Controller, $3,000 each; Assistant District Attorney, Jailor, County Solicitor, Engineer, and County Commissioners $2,000 each; County Detective $1,200. All fees go to the county and State Treasury. The bill applies only to officers hereafter elected. Supplement to Wallace's City act.

The bill to repeal section 7 of the act taxing corporations, so as to exempt coal companies, was reported negatively.

The following were read in place:

Mr. Hellman—To extend the mechanics' lien to work and materials used in pavements.

Mr. Ermentrout—To prevent cattle from running at large.

Mr. Kelly—To submit to a popular vote the question of the removal of the seat of government to Philadelphia.

The bill authorizing borough councils to vacate streets was postponed for the present.

The bill requiring recorders to keep general indexes of deeds and mortgages was discussed, amended and passed to a third reading. The amendments made today will probably be reconsidered on Monday.

The Senate was thin to-day, only thirty Senators being present. No other business was done.

Adjourned till Monday evening at eight o'clock.

HOUSE.

Mr. Petroff, of Philadelphia, offered a resolution to raise a committee of three to investigate the facts about the bribe said to have been offered him by Mr. Lusk, of Butler, which was temporarily in the Speaker's chair when Mr. Wolfe obtained the floor, was then read and proved Mr. Wolfe to be right, and the Speaker wrong, the Doctor had not the nerve to stand by the answer to his own appeal. He was too much the slave of his party to sustain the man whom his party was attempting to wrong.

The roosters are talking in a quiet way about rescinding the resolution for final adjournment to-day. There is a good prospect for two or three bills which mean "business," and they cannot forego the temptation to get a chance at them. If an open attempt, therefore, is made to rescind the adjournment resolution, it will at once be understood as a step to give a fuller chance to those who wish to restore the old methods of procuring legislation; and if the attempt fails, it will be made an opportunity for finding out, by actual test, whether it is more difficult or costly to corrupt a Legislature of two hundred and fifty-three than one of one hundred and thirty-three.

In the Senate, to-day, a very large number of petitions was presented by all the Senators. Wednesday petitions are in order under the rules. They had relation, principally, to three subjects—the pipe law the establishment of a Homœopathic hospital for the insane, and the change of the law relative to punish quackery. These are the subjects upon which efforts have been made to get up petitions. A large number was also presented in favor of the tax on bituminous coal companies.

Petitions, however, are not considered as of very much importance, of course. In the old days they were considered of prime importance; but for a long period they have been merely presented and filed away, and journalized and indexed. No one ever looks at them or even refers to them. Experience has demonstrated that petitions are easily got up, most people signing them when presented, without inquiry, and are therefore of no longer an index to public opinion. A single memorial, setting forth facts and figures, or arguments drawn therefrom, and signed by a score of the leading men of a county, carries more weight with it than one indiscriminately signed, and for the very good reason that the single signer states his case upon his own responsibility, while in the latter the responsibility for one signed by everybody is divided among too many to make it sufficiently "hefty" for the production of practical effect.

Mr. McMullen's Game law passed finally, and goes to the House. It prohibits the hunting of deer before September 1, and kills the season for wild turkey to be hunted with dogs only in the counties of Fayette, Union, Schuylkill and Wyoming.

Mr. Playford's Narrow Gauge Railroad bill was reported negatively. The formation of companies to build roads of three feet gauge, upon a capital of $6,000 to the mile, $3,000 of which must be subscribed and $1,000 paid in before the charter can issue. Mr. Wallace tried hard to make the bill apply to *all* railroads, broad as well as narrow gauge, less than fifty miles in length, but the Democratic majority and the discussion indicated that enough narrow gauge enterprises have already sprung up in various parts of the State to assist the interest of a majority of the Senators.

Two bills on second reading, to-day, called out a great deal of discussion, and the debate ran from one to the other for the first time this session. The first was a bill to make the county in which they originated responsible for costs in such cases as have had their venue changed by special acts of Assembly. It was finally amended so as to apply to the costs and expenses of such suits which would have been legally chargeable to the county in which the case originated if the venue had not been removed. In that shape it passed. The second bill was one to punish as a misdemeanor the carrying of concealed and deadly weapons with malicious intent. Mr. Dill tried to get on an amendment exempting the carrying of fire-arms by persons on a journey, but failed. Mr. Rockwell then tried to strike out the provision that a jury may regard the finding of a concealed weapon as evidence of a malicious intent to use it; but this also failed, and after adding "razors" to the list of prohibited weapons, which includes pistols, slung-shots, hand-billies, dirks, or any other deadly weapon, the bill passed to third reading. The bill is a transcript of the local laws now in force on the same subject in Philadelphia, Schuylkill and Luzerne.

The bill relative to foreign insurance agencies, which passed second reading, is intended to remedy superfluous legislation upon the subject. One law now requires foreign insurance agencies to file with the Secretary of the Commonwealth a certificate of the amount of capital. No legal process can be served upon the agent of the companies; and the Insurance law requires the same notice to be filed with the Insurance Commissioner. The pending bill is to repeal the first of these requirements, so as to exact but one certificate.

The Free Pipe Line bill was reported, to-day, with amendments. It will not be acted on for some time. The Constitutional amendments proposed by the Constitutional Commission were also reported, in the shape of a joint resolution. If this bill is acted on at this session, it will have to lie over until the Legislature meets which will be chosen in 1876, the Constitution requiring that all amendments, if acted on favorably in the Legislature in which they are first proposed, shall be afterward submitted to the Legislature which shall be first thereafter chosen; and if adopted therein, shall then be submitted to popular vote. The amendments, consequently, cannot be adopted before 1877.

The following bills were also reported favorably from committees, and will come up on first reading to-morrow (Thursday) or next day:

To regulate certain conveyances made by married women.

To authorize the judges of the several courts to fix the number of the regular terms of the said courts and the time for holding the same, the time for summoning the Grand Jury and for the returns of constables, aldermen and justices of the peace to the same.

Declaring all promissory notes containing a confession of judgment or a warrant of attorney to confess judgment negotiable paper.

To prevent the unlawful taking and using of the horse, carriage or other property of another, and to punish the same in cases where such taking and using does not amount to the crime of larceny.

To enable the sheriff of each county when the grand jury wheel is in use, and has become unfit for use, to remove the contents of said wheel and place the same in a new wheel.

To authorize the change of venue in criminal cases.

Defining the limitation on prosecutions for forgery.

To provide a remedy for irregularity in the scaling up of jury wheels, and in the custody thereof.

For the incorporation and regulation of banks of discount and deposit.

For the codification of the laws relating to the insane.

To provide for the erection of watering troughs on public roads for the use of horses and cattle.

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, February 4, 1875.

The House, for a wonder, actually got to work this morning, and did a little business, but it had to extend the hour of adjournment in order to get that little done. It wrangled for nearly two hours in a vain attempt to get up the Philadelphia Municipal bill for amendment, after it had been referred to a committee of conference, and the committee had reported on it. This was a most extraordinary attempt, and could have been made only in this extraordinarily inefficient House. A bill which has come from a conference committee can be amended only by referring it back or appointing a new committee, and this the House found out, after floundering about nearly two hours in the most lamentable ignorance of legislative rules. The report of the Conference Committee was finally adopted, and the bill goes to the Governor.

The House then passed, finally, House bill No. 1, which is Mr. Graham's bill for regulating future elections of city and ward officers, so as to provide a uniform date for the commencement of their terms. This bill cannot, now, it is feared, be got through in time for the coming February election. It will go over to the Senate on Friday and be referred, and is not likely to be reported before Tuesday or Wednesday next. Reported with amendments, it will have to go over another day, until printed, and both Houses will probably adjourn on Friday of next week to the Wednesday following the February election, all the members desiring to be at home at that time.

This is the first and the *only* House bill which has yet passed that body. It also took up and passed through first reading some six bills, three of which were Senate bills. Quite a number of bills were reported from committees, and then the House, being astonished at its first and most unusual impulse of industry, adjourned. It is to be hoped the impulse may continue and as Mr. Mitchell pounded the members into passing a resolution for three afternoon sessions next week, there is ground for the trust that something will be done. Shame, if nothing else, may drive the majority into making an effort.

The Pipe Line bill was on the calendar of bills for third reading in the Senate, to-day, but it was not reached; and as the bills which were read a first time to-day will come up on second reading to-morrow, and as several of them will excite a warm discussion, there is no probability that the bill referred to will be reached for some days yet. There are several large bills ahead of it. All of which means that some time, such as the two pending Insurance bills, read a first time to-day, the Compulsory Education bill, the bill to codify the laws relative to the insane, and several others. The chances are that it will not get under headway for a week to come, and there is also a probability that, when it is taken up, it will be materially altered by the Committee on Corporations, for the purpose of changing its form so as to bring it under the Wallace act, and for the purpose, also, of giving Philadelphia a hearing upon it, her Board of Trade having asked that privilege.

The insurance bills, read a first time, today, are likely to excite a good deal of discussion, as will also the Compulsory Education bill, when it comes up. There does not seem to be any prospect of the passage of the latter bill, which is regarded as too much of an experiment to venture upon at present.

Among the bills read to-day was one to establish a nautical school in Philadelphia, for the education of boys as seamen. The title would indicate it to be a harmless little measure, for the benefit of Philadelphia alone; but one section of it appropriates $50,000 annually to the support of the school, to be taken out of the State appropriation for the common schools, one-third of which is to come out of Philadelphia's share of the million appropriation. Thus the school would cost the school fund of Philadelphia $16,667, and the school fund of the State $33,333. It is very kind and good-natured in Philadelphia to ask the people of the State to contribute the sum mentioned in the bill for the establishment of a Homœopathic hospital for the insane, and the scheme of a bill to punish quackery. These are the subjects upon which efforts have been made to get up petitions. A large number was also presented in favor of the tax on bituminous coal companies.

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To provide for the erection of water troughs on public roads.

To fix the salaries of county officers in counties of over 150,000 inhabitants.

To reimburse Mr. Waters, of Uniontown, for expenses in clothing soldiers' orphans.

A supplement to the act dividing cities into three classes, authorizing the consolidation of school districts in said cities.

HOUSE.

The Rosenmiller petition was brought up again, on motion to amend the Journal of Friday last to make it correspond with the stenographer's report, referring thereto. After nearly an hour's discussion, Mr. Reighard, Democrat, called the previous question, which was sustained and the motion to amend was lost—yeas 62, nays 80.

Mrs. Hill, the Pittsburgh crusador, was granted the use of the hall to-morrow evening, to speak on intemperance.

Mr. Toner, on leave being given, reported favorably the bill repealing the Local Option law.

Mr. Rodgers presented the minority report, which was read, giving the reasons why he and his colleagues voted against the bill in committee.

The Committee on Elections made a final report in the case of Mr. Chrisman, the Harrisburg member, giving him undisputed possession of the seat.

Mr. Campbell, of Butler, moved to recommit the bill to repeal the Local Option law to the Judiciary Committee.

Pending this a motion to adjourn prevailed—yeas 72, nays 68.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 3, 1875.

The House spent the whole of this day's session in its petty effort to censure Wolfe, and wound up its three days' labor by passing a resolution to that effect—yeas 96, nays 86. Three Democrats, Graeff, Swan, and Carson, declined to vote, to their great credit, but the vote, with that exception, was a strictly party one. Wolfe still survives; and although condemned by a party vote for being in contempt of the House, the contempt which he and every one feels for the majority and its Speaker continues unbounded.

What this useless House will now do, it would be vain to try and predict. It has consumed three days in a childish attempt to vindicate its authority, precipitated by a tyrannical use of the Speaker's power, continued and enforced by a falsification of the Journal, which had to be made to lie in order to sustain the Speaker, and followed by a party caucus to keep the decent members of the party from acting upon their honest impulses, and it will next probably find some other trifling piece of business to occupy the time which is rapidly slipping away from it. No one seems to anticipate that it will take up the public business in the House of it. That would indicate a degree of capacity which the House has not yet shown itself to possess.

With reference to the falsification of the Journal above referred to, it was found, upon the reading of the Journal, on Tuesday morning, of Monday night's proceedings, that it did not state the facts correctly. The stenographic notes of the reporter for the *Legislative Record* were then appealed to, and they showed that the Journal was wrong. The notes of the reporters for the *Record* showed that Mr. Wolfe was perfectly justified in claiming his right to the floor, which had been given to him by Mr. Lusk, the acting Speaker, on Monday night, when Speaker Patterson ordered him to take his seat, and the Journal of the House was made up so as to put Mr. Wolfe in the wrong. Dr. Lusk, of Butler, who was temporarily in the Speaker's chair when Mr. Wolfe obtained the floor, was then in possession of the reporter's notes; and although he expressed a willingness to abide by them, when they were read and proved Mr. Wolfe to be right, and the Speaker wrong, the Doctor had not the nerve to stand by the answer to his own appeal. He was too much the slave of his party to sustain the man whom his party was attempting to wrong.

The roosters are talking in a quiet way about rescinding the resolution for final adjournment. There is a good prospect for two or three bills which mean "business," and they cannot forego the temptation to get a chance at them. If an open attempt, therefore, is made to rescind the adjournment resolution, it will at once be understood as a step to give a fuller chance to those who wish to restore the old methods of procuring legislation; and if the attempt fails, it will be made an opportunity for finding out, by actual test, whether it is more difficult or costly to corrupt a Legislature of two hundred and fifty-three than one of one hundred and thirty-three.

In the Senate, to-day, a very large number of petitions was presented by all the Senators. Wednesday petitions are in order under the rules. They had relation, principally, to three subjects—the pipe law the establishment of a Homœopathic hospital for the insane, and the change of the law relative to punish quackery. These are the subjects upon which efforts have been made to get up petitions. A large number was also presented in favor of the tax on bituminous coal companies.

Petitions, however, are not considered as of very much importance, of course. In the old days they were considered of prime importance; but for a long period they have been merely presented and filed away, and journalized and indexed. No one ever looks at them or even refers to them. Experience has demonstrated that petitions are easily got up, most people signing them when presented, without inquiry, and are therefore of no longer an index to public opinion. A single memorial, setting forth facts and figures, or arguments drawn therefrom, and signed by a score of the leading men of a county, carries more weight with it than one indiscriminately signed, and for the very good reason that the single signer states his case upon his own responsibility, while in the latter the responsibility for one signed by everybody is divided among too many to make it sufficiently "hefty" for the production of practical effect.

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To re

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1875.

And now another "reform" idol is in peril of dethronement. Charges have been formally presented against Governor TAYLOR, of Wisconsin, of alleged misdemeanors committed whilst holding the office of President of the State Agricultural Society, and the Executive Board of the society has appointed a committee to investigate the matter.

THE State, Congressional, Councilior, and other nominations, have been made by both parties in New Hampshire, and the campaign may now be said to have fairly opened. The election is due far off to predict the result with any certainty, but the Republicans are animated by high hopes of victory, notwithstanding the iniquitous gerrymandering of the State to which the Democrats resorted immediately on their accession to power. We trust our friends realize the importance of the situation, and will leave no stone unturned to secure success.

THE complete failure of the Democratic House of Representatives of this State to meet the expectations of its friends is exciting the attention of the Democratic papers, as well as the Republican. The Bloomsburg *Columbian*, Mr. BUCKALEW's paper, is particularly severe upon it for its shortcomings as "the first Legislature under the new Constitution." "If," says that organ of the ex-Senator, "we are to judge the present Legislature like disease, by the symptoms it exhibits, no reform need be looked for." Certainly not, we should say, at least not so far as the Democratic House of Representatives is concerned.

THE efforts which, acting upon the advice of their Northern friends and allies, the rebels of the South have for the past few weeks made to prove that no necessity for the presence of United States troops existed at New Orleans or elsewhere, but that everybody had accepted the situation in good faith, have at length proved too much for the actors in the play—simulation and hypocrisy not being their forte. The New Orleans *Bulletin* of the 6th instant, unable longer to restrain its repressed hatred, came out in a double-leaded editorial of over a column in length, from which we extract the following precious *morceau*, as illustrative of their lamb-like disposition:

"Patriots of the North, let the voice of Grant's victims in Louisiana warn you in time. Arm yourselves without delay; band yourselves together in military array; organize by States, and have your worthy and trusty leaders chosen. Let those who love liberty and their children, and get used to concerted action. Put aside funds, munitions and stores enough for a prolonged campaign. Be ready when duty demands it to take the field in such numbers as to crush out tyranny before it becomes supreme. You can depend upon most of the old soldiers of the armies who fought for the Government and liberty. You organize and prepare in due season. Your country, your threatened liberties, and the palpable encroachments, plain intentions of your enemies, call for active preparation. In the name of liberty we conjure you to heed this warning and be ready."

THE last official statement of the associated banks of New York city shows that they now hold of coin and coin certificates only $15,100,000, against $33,200,000 at the corresponding date last year, and forty per cent. less than the average at the same time every year since 1869. The gold balance in the Treasury Department shows a similar depletion. The amount of coin held by the Government on the 1st instant was $69,500,000, against $85,330,000 a year ago, and an average of $20,500,000 less than at corresponding periods for previous years up to 1869. The New York *Bulletin* assigns the following facts as the principal causes of this depletion:

"Ever since the panic, the rate of interest has been so low, and the caution among investors so decided, that an unusual preference has been given to Government securities both by private individuals and financial institutions. Prices of bonds have thus been kept above the European quotations, which have been depressed by the unsettled condition of the London and continental money markets, and United States securities have, from this cause, been steadily flowing home for several months past. The amount of bonds thus returned must have been very large. The reflux is by no means at its height just now, and yet, last week, one lot of new fives of $700,000 was received, and the week previous one parcel of $600,000 of the same class of bonds arrived. Besides this class of securities some considerable amounts of railroad bonds have been returned from Germany. This reflux of investments has kept exchange high at the time when rates are usually the lowest, and we have had to send out possibly $35,000,000 more of gold than we otherwise need to pay for securities which we had regarded as having found a permanent resting place in other countries."

Presently, however, it is to be hoped there will be a turn in the tide; since the gradual resumption of industrial operations among us will naturally attract home capital by assuring better returns for it than can be realized by investments in United States bonds.

ABOUT PATENTS.

The country generally will rejoice to learn of the action of Congress in defeating the applications for a renewal of sundry petty patents for various parts of the machinery of which sewing machines, generally, are made up. Upon the magnetic telegraph, the original patent for which ran out years since, numberless improvements have been made in matters of detail, which have each been covered with patents, and which now render the magnetic telegraph as much a patented monopoly as ever; and in like manner the sewing machine has been loaded down with patents of all kinds, from the needle to the treadle, the cost of which has practically rendered the possession of such a machine a luxury from which the poor are shut out by the exorbitance of the price to be paid for it. The refusal of Congress to renew these patents, the holders of which have fastened upon the original machine like the daughters of the horse-leech, crying continually "Give! give!" will compel an abandonment of the monopoly that has hitherto been accorded them. The machine which is now sold at $50 need not cost half the money; and American purchasers will soon be able to buy sewing machines as cheaply as the people of Great Britain can now buy them from the same manufacturers, the patents referred to having no force across the ocean. Machines of American make are advertised to-day, in an English paper, at half the price that is demanded for them here, and that solely because of the patents which here weigh them down.

And we may be permitted, in this connection, to express the trust that Congress will hereafter adopt the general policy, and stick to it, of refusing to renew any and all patents that have run to their legal limits. While there might, possibly, arise a case in which justice to an unlucky inventor might require the extension of his patent beyond the fourteen year term allowed by law, through his inability to get it before the public in season, there is but little probability of the occurrence of such a case. As a general rule it is safe to infer that a patent which has not won its way to favor in seven or fourteen years is a failure; and it is just as safe to conclude that the inventor has had abundant opportunity to earn his reward within that period. In the multiplicity of patents which is now prevailing, it is much more the duty of Congress to protect the people from the inventors than the inventors from the people. The former have all the protection they have a right to ask; with that we do not seek to meddle; but we protest against extra extensions of patents, especially in the cases of domestic and agricultural implements in common use.

The practice which is growing up of patenting trifling improvements to implements in general use, and then piling up a patent upon improvements to such improvements, is also growing into undue proportions, and needs to have some bounds set to it. A mowing machine patented twenty years ago, is improved by a new cog wheel set into it somewhere, say ten years after the first patent; the old patent ran out six years ago, but the new cog wheel keeps up the monopoly; and just as it is approaching the limits of freedom, some fellow steps in with an improved attachment to the cutter-bar, which will continue the monopoly fourteen years longer, and so on, *ad infinitum*. Some dozen years hence, ingenuity will devise some other addition, or change in the machine, and, unless Congress steps in with a remedy, it will never be free from a patent of some kind. We confess to a decided sympathy with the Grangers in the demand which they make that the implements of national industry shall not be forever loaded down with the inventor's special privilege. Native skill and energy are worthy of all the encouragement that Congressional legislation can give them, provided that the people, who have to pay the piper, are not taxed forever on their count.

SECTARIAN SCHOOLS.

The efforts making in Illinois and Missouri to open the way to a sectarian use of the school funds of those States, so as to build up sectarian schools at the expense of the general public, is in strange contrast with the effort recently made in the contrary direction in the State of New York. The people of that State, by a large majority, last year incorporated in their fundamental law a provision forbidding any appropriation of the public money for sectarian purposes. This step was taken by them, be it understood, after many years' experience of the practice of such sectarian appropriations, for it is a notorious fact that the Legislature of that State has for a long period, diverted large sums of the public money to the support of sectarian enterprises, or enterprises under sectarian control; and the practice had grown into such a serious abuse that the people were driven, finally, into the adoption of a constitutional amendment as an insurmountable barrier to it.

What, therefore, the experience of the State of New York has driven its people to abandon, it is proposed to inflict, as a fresh experiment, upon the people of Illinois and Missouri. The adverse experience of another State goes for nothing. The church which puts forth Bishop MCQUAIDE to advocate sectarian schools, has put forth its adherents to make a similar demand in the Legislatures of several Western States, at once, as an evidence, we are bound to suppose, of what it wants, rather than of what it now expects to accomplish. It must familiarize the public ear with the demand, before the pressure is brought to enforce the requisition; and we regard these Western movements, therefore, rather as the initiation of a preliminary method of agitation than as a determined effort to attain present results.

The Constitution of Illinois stands in the way, for one thing, in that State, and cannot be changed with very great rapidity. Like the amended Constitution of New York, it prohibits appropriations to sectarian schools, and nothing short of a popular vote can change it. The movement there, consequently, is one of mere agitation, and looks to the future for its realization. Missouri, on the other hand, is about to remake its Constitution; and the movement, there, likewise, is intended more for effect upon the Constitutional Convention than upon the Legislature.

But both movements are proof of the restless energy with which the Crusade for bringing about the practical union of Church and State is pressed. The grand question is invariably the one which will be *forced* upon public attention. No amount of shirking will get rid of it, or postpone it. It may not be a practical question to-day, in Pennsylvania, so far as our local legislation is for the present concerned; but it is a question of general interest, nevertheless, and it will come home to us sooner, possibly, than is now expected. We are prepared for our share in the controversy, whenever it opens; and we would be faithless to our readers if we did not call their attention to these signs of the times, the purport of which is too plain to be mistaken.

LOUISIANA.

The rejection, by MCENERY's men, of the proposition of compromise made by the Congressional Committee on Louisiana affairs, clearly proves that there is no earnest desire for peace on the part of the Louisiana Democrats. The Congressional Committee pointed out a method by which the whole controversy could be settled, and peace and prosperity restored to that State. The Democrats were to have the House, the Republicans the Senate, and KELLOGG's government was to be recognized. The Democratic members of the House, acting upon their own unbiased impulses, agreed to this by a vote of 30 to 25; but MCENERY interposed his veto and the scheme has since been rejected by those who have professed an anxiety to bring order out of chaos, and peace out of confusion. The Republicans were willing to comply; it was the Democrats, alone, who refused to accede to a proposition at once practical and decisive.

The Democrats of Louisiana reject this proposition because it destroys the programme of the new rebellion. It deprives the party of a grievance, and blocks the way of that armed conspiracy against the Government of which the outbreak in Louisiana was the first manifestation. The Government must be captured in 1876, and that cannot be done if the Louisiana case be settled amicably now. The party wants war, not peace, and therefore it was kept in a turmoil, in order that the rebels of the South may have it as the rallying point of their new resistance to the General Government.

We trust, however, we have heard the last of the reproaches heaped upon the General Government because of its failure to adopt practical measures in Louisiana for restoring it to a peaceful condition. Here was a practical measure suggested, which was fair enough in its details to receive the approval of a majority of the Democratic members of the Legislature; and if it be the law, now, because it was not fair or practical, nor because it was unworthy of support, but because it left MCENERY out in the cold, and deprived the Northern Democracy of their pet grievance.

We trust, also, that the Congressional Committee, having shown their willingness to adjust an unpleasant difficulty upon fair terms, will return home and spread before the people a correct statement of the facts in this Louisiana case. We had a white washing report from its sub-committee; and, since that, the full committee has gone over the ground thoroughly and knows whereof it is called to inform. Let it tell its story plainly, concisely and honestly, and then let the National Administration and the party stand firmly by it. There has been child's play enough with this Louisiana case. The time has come for acting upon it wisely and firmly; and if the worst comes to the worst, and loyalty can be got into the breasts of the Louisiana malcontents only by ramming it down their throats, let us stand prepared to see the ramming down process resorted to, and suffered to be until it is finally and completely successful.

Building Railroads.

In a lecture, a few days since, on the mania for building railroads, Charles Francis Adams furnished some very interesting facts concerning the construction of railroads in this country and in Europe. It appears that in 1844, in England, in a single season, schemes were set on foot which involved an expenditure of £340,000,000, an amount equal to the whole interest-bearing debt of the United States. The mania in the United States, in his judgment, existed from 1868 to 1873, during which season it jumped from about 4,000 to 7,000, and then to 8,000 miles a year. The States of Michigan, Kansas and Illinois were taken as illustrations of the effect of the mania. In Michigan 1,900 miles were built in twenty-eight years, and then 1,700 miles in the next four. In that State thirteen roads now failed to earn their interest by the sum of $2,700,000,. In Illinois during eleven years, between 1857-'68, the construction averaged 85 miles a year; in the next five years it averaged 664 miles. Of the 3,300 miles of road built in those years, not three hundred were apparently profitable. But Kansas afforded the most extraordinary illustration of the fury of the mania. With 430,000 people only it had more miles of railroad than the State of Massachusetts, and none of it was prosperous.

The Grangers were regarded by him as the best friends of the holders of railroad securities, because their action has suspended the building of any new railroads.

From the statistics it appears that, in accordance with past experience, in about four years more the country will have grow up to its present railroad system, and it would become healthy and profitable.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

One of the best Pennsylvania journals we know of is the Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL. —Its news is always fresh and reliable; its editorials are well written and timely, and its political character is particularly good. It is a square Republican paper; but it is never afraid to criticise its own party, and is always ready to repel any unfounded attacks upon it. We heartily commend it to the favorable attention of our readers.—*Tioga Agitator.*

PHILADELPHIA, PA., has a Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," which is eighty nine years old. Out of 19,-111 commitments to the county prisons in 1874, the agent of the society procured the release of 2,561 persons by an amicable settlement of theircases, and without defeating the ends of justice and with the consent of the authorities and prosecutors, who were convinced that the detention of the prisoners was unnecessary. It cost only $135,25 to do this, and the taxpayers of Philadelphia county were saved $69,202 48, the sum which would have been spent for the support of these 2,561 persons in jail during their term. Among the number were 17 insane persons and 37 children, who had been committed with their mothers. The interference of this aid society has saved hundreds of families from being broken up and children from being plunged into evil associations. It must be conceded that this Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons is doing a good work for prisoners and for taxpayers. The same work can be done in other cities.

STATE NEWS.

Lock Haven has the small-pox.

Condersport is talking about purchasing a fire apparatus.

Milliford has a suit originating in a Fremont campaign bet.

The Danville Opera House is to be disposed of by a gift enterprise.

A Cumberland county man owns a 4,109 pound steer, and wont sell him for $1,000.

A Lehigh county lady has died of a tumor, which was partly petrified.

There were 353 deaths in Philadelphia, last week—61 of them from lung diseases.

Wolves still lurk in the by-ways and stilly woods of Fulton county, this State.

There is an old house in Reading in which George Washington once took a meal.

There are several cases of illness at Erie occasioned by eating pork infested with trichinae.

The Shamokin *Times* says a wild hog was shot on the Mahanoy mountain the other day.

Delaware county is in debt $160,579 95 worth, which is $8,651 55 more than at the close of the year 1873.

President Miller advertises a letting of several sections of the Lewisburg and Spruce Creek Railroad.

A true bill has been found against Mayor Loftus, of Scranton, for perjury, by the grand jury at Wilkesbarro.

A second narrow gauge railroad is projected in Washington county, to connect the county seat and the village of Prosperity.

Epizooty is again prevailing to a considerable extent in the lower end of Berks county and the upper end of Chester county.

Dr. J. H. Gihon, who served as private secretary to Governor Geary, died at Shreveport, Louisiana, on the 13th ult., after three days' illness.

One of Columbia county's wealthy citizen recently pleaded the statute of limitations on a bill of one dollar which had been due for seven or eight years.

Mrs. Glose, who drowned her baby in the river at Easton, has been acquitted of murder on the ground of insanity. The verdict meets with general approval.

A Reading man, arrested for stealing coal, stated that he had no coal in his house for a week past, and was forced to steal fuel to keep his family from freezing.

At last, says the Williamsport *Bulletin*, it has been our good fortune to see a Philadelphia newspaper with some spirit in it. It was wrapped around a bottle of gin.

Squire Shanahan, of Mount Carmel, the other day committed to jail an old woman of about seventy years of age, charged with committing an assault on her daughter.

The champion undertaker of Montgomery county is Joseph McGonagle, who has had the quiet satisfaction of laying away fourteen hundred and seventy-eight people.

A Reading girl who recently married, finding that her husband couldn't get leave of absence, said she was going to have a wedding trip anyhow, and started off alone.

The Presbyterian church of Bellefonte, has the credit of contributing proportionately more money to charitable uses than any other church, under the above denomination, in the State.

Mrs. Susan Kaler, a widow, aged seventy-one years, occuppying a room by herself at the residence of William Laird, Lewisburg, was found dead in her bed on Wednesday morning of last week.

Philadelphia is to be represented at the Inter-collegiate regatta at Saratoga next summer, a crew having been already selected and organized from among the rowing men of the University of Pennsylvania.

The Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, will hold its next annual meeting in Norristown, commencing March 17th. Bishop Andrews will preside, assisted by Bishops Scott and Simpson.

Hon. Gurdon S. Berry, of Titusville, recently taken to the Insane Asylum at Harrisburg, escaped from that institution on Sunday morning, by tying the sheets from his bed together and by their aid lowering himself to the ground.

An attempt was made on Saturday to assassinate Samuel Davis, foreman of the repair shops of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, in Scranton. He was knocked down with a stung-shot, and badly beaten. His ruffianly assailant is unknown.

The Rev. Henry S. Spackman, D., D., Chaplain of the Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia, died on Tuesday morning, of paralysis, aged sixty-four years. In early life Mr. Spackman was admitted to the bar, and served ten years in the two houses of the State Legislature. He was ordained as a minister of the Episcopal Church in 1846.

In the suit of Susanna Lesher against the city of Reading to recover damages for the loss of her husband, caused by his wandering into the Schuylkill canal at a dangerous point and drowning, the jury on Saturday morning rendered a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for $5,000. Counsel for the city filed a motion for a new trial.

The alleged robbers of the Second National bank of Carbondale have all been arrested. William Brown, clerk in the Erie Railroad freight office at Carbondale, is alleged to have planned the robbery, and the actual perpetrators, it is said, were Henry Bond, a workman in a shingle factory, and another whose name is not divulged. Having bound and gagged the cashier and shut their plunder, they came out, changed hats with two accomplices outside, and walked leisurely away. All belong to the Molly Maguire society. The clue on which the detectives started was a scarf which one of the robbers left in the bank.

The Reading *Eagle* says: Daniel Johnson, aged seventy, lives over the county border in Lancaster. On his farm are two dwellings, one new house and one old log house. The latter has been in a dilapidated condition for many years. Mr. Johnson, despite of all this, prefers to live in it. A few years ago the roof fell in, but still the old gentleman preferred to live in the log house where he was born and where he had lived all his life. The new house was unoccupied, and the windows were nailed shut with boards. Every inducement had been tried to get him to move, but it was always fruitless. A few of his neighbors determined to move him, and accordingly repaired to his place a few days ago, and took all his things to the other house. His sister, who has been his housekeeper, refused to leave, and not until noon could she be induced to go. But he would not leave, nor did he until evening. Those who had moved him, fearing that he would return to the old house, waited for a chance, and, as soon as he had left, tore the house to the ground, it being the work of only a few minutes.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

All the manufactories of Martin's Ferry, Ohio, are running.

The steel works at Bethlehem, Pa., resumed work on Monday.

The lumber handled in the Cleveland market during the year 1874 aggregated 170,000,000 feet; the year before 194,488,000 feet.

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The lime manufacturers of Ohio held a convention recently at Sandusky, and organized a State Association. Another meeting will be held at Clyde on the 16th inst.

Iron manufacturers in Lawrence, Jackson and Vinton counties, Ohio, note an increasing demand for iron, and are encouraged from this fact to believe that iron has touched bottom, and is about to command better prices.

The amount of coal shipped from Northumberland county, Pa., in 1874 was 1,221,550 tons, by 33 collieries, of which the Cameron and Big Mountain shipped the heaviest amounts, each over 100,000 tons. The total shows a slight diminution compared with 1873, when 1,234,069 tons were shipped.

The car shops at Northumberland, Pa., are about to be turned into a rolling mill and nail factory. The name of the firm will be the Eureka Iron and Nail Company, and is composed of six practical men, viz.: C. A. Godcharles, R. A. Bostley, C. A. Bostley, Wm. Godcharles, S. A. Andrews and a Mr. Godcharles from Duncannon.

The Columbia, Pa., *Spy* takes a hopeful view of the industrial situation in that place, and says: Col. Kauffman is putting his furnace in readiness to blow in as soon as the price of iron will warrant it. The Wrightsville Iron Company have coal and ore on hand to run their furnace four months, and will light up as soon as "iron will pay." Watts' Marietta Furnaces, Nos. 1 and 2, and Cottrell & Benson's, and the Musselman Furnaces are still out of blast. Chickies Furnaces, Nos. 1 and 2, are also in full blast, and St. Charles, Nos. 1 and 2, are running under the charge of Mr. Bowery, and the actual perpetrators, it is said, were Henry Bond, a workman in a shingle factory, and another whose name is not divulged. Having bound and gagged the cashier and shut their plunder, they came out, changed hats with two accomplices outside, and walked leisurely away. All belong to the Molly Maguire society. The clue on which the detectives started was a scarf which one of the robbers left in the bank.

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FROM COLUMBUS.

A Glance at Possible Republican Candidates—The Men Who May Make Up the Next State Ticket—Death of the State Librarian—Candidates for His Vacant Office—Some Dog Statistics, and Its Result—A Polite Lobby that Didn't Come Back, &c.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

COLUMBUS, February 9, 1875.

Last week I spoke of the candidates whose names had already been mentioned in connection with the Democratic nominations for State offices the coming campaign. Now I will mention some of those who will probably be put forward on the Republican side, premising with the remark that the uncertainty of the next State election keeps back many who would, under more hopeful circumstances, be in the advance line for official recognition. Ohio may possibly reverse her decision and become Republican next fall, but I believe the more prevalent opinion to be that she will not. The reaction, to tell the truth, is not likely to take place so soon. It is the era of the Restoration with the Democratic party, and its new lease power gives it a lease of vigor that is not to be exhausted in one or two years.

The most talked of man for the Republican candidate for Governor is ex-Governor William Dennison. He is a strong man, politically, has a good record to point back to, and is extremely popular. He was Governor in 1861, when the civil war broke out, and his labors in organizing and sending forward Ohio regiments were well directed and unceasing. Since then he has been a member of the President's cabinet, and has had other distinguished honors offered him. A man of fine presence, an eloquent speaker, and withal an excellent organizer, he would, if nominated, enter into the canvas with spirit, and make perhaps the best race among all those who have been spoken of.

Ex-Governor NOYES will probably be urged for the nomination from Southern Ohio. He was beaten by Allen, two years ago, after the most bitter personal contest ever carried on in the State, and beaten even then by only eight hundred votes. His friends believe that he ought to be given another chance to redeem himself. He was a gallant soldier in the war, and is reckoned one of the best speakers in the party. He would be found weakest, perhaps, in the Western Reserve, where there still exists an unsettled feud between his adherents and those of General Garfield. Up in the Northwest they are claiming the nomination for General Sherwood, former Secretary of State, who now represents the Toledo district in Congress. He was also defeated last fall by a postoffice appointment. The General has had a fair allowance of official honors already. Still, he would make a strong canvass for any opponent—even for William Allen, who has risen. Bluff old Ben. Wade has been spoken of, also, in connection with the office, but he declines the honor, preferring his quiet Granger existence, after twenty years service in the Senate. Lieutenant Governor Hart has likewise been spoken of by many as an available candidate, but he, too, prefers the practice and the pleasures of Cleveland society, to which he now belongs. Senator Curtis, of Guyohoga county, has been urged to become a candidate, but declines, and says he means to retire to private life and have nothing more to do with politics.

Dr. James Williams, the present incumbent, will be unanimously renominated as State Auditor, and will, in all likelihood, secure it without much trouble. Dr. G. Volney Dorsey, who was State Treasurer in 1867, is the only person whose name has been mentioned against him. For Attorney General the present incumbent, Mr. John Little, will be nominated again. He has proved himself a safe and faithful officer, and the compliment of a re-nomination will be given him without his asking for it. For Judge of the Supreme Court Judge McIlvaine, the present Chief Justice, will doubtless again receive the nomination. It will be noticed that no candidates are mentioned for the position of Lieutenant Governor. In fact, no names have been mentioned in connection with that position as yet, it being on ordinary occasions but little else than an empty honor, and only liable to become an office of first rank in the death or resignation of the Governor.

THE STATE LIBRARIAN'S DEATH.

It is not often that the death of any one occurs that occasions more heartfelt sorrow than that of Walter C. Hood, the State Librarian. A pleasant, quiet, chatty old man, beloved by all who knew him, modest and yet not critical, retiring in his manners and yet not a recluse, a graceful writer and a charming talker, he wasone of those delightful men to be met with anywhere. Radical in his own opinions, he always cheerfully acquiesced in the rights of others to hold theirs, and never was driven into wrangling or vituperative abuse. His best friends were many of them those who opposed him politically. For thirty odd years he bore as an ornament to the editorial profession of the rural press of Ohio. During that time he had gone pretty well through the school of journalism, had written, edited, published, set types, editorials and correspondence, and had shown his culture and strength in all. He was a sort of Admirable Crichton in the belles lettres of his day, and in all the all that he undertook well. I called to see him the day before he died, at his room, in one of the more quiet hotels. A brother and a sister were in attendance upon him, and, although very weak, he had lost none of the quiet cheerfulness which always characterized him. After chatting a half hour with him I rose to go, saying, "Well, good night Mr. Hood, I'll call to see you again in the morning." "Do," said he, "and try to come as early as you can; because"—and here he put his hand under the cover of the bed to hear beating—"because I'll not last much longer. You'll find me here in the morning, but I may be gone by night." And the next night he died without a struggle.

THE SUCCESSORSHIP.

And speaking of the dead Librarian brings to mind the inquiry, Who is to be his successor? Twenty or twenty-five persons, it is said, have already filed their applications with the Governor for the vacant place, although this is only the third day after the death. It is safe to say that not one half the applicants have made themselves known. A few of their names have come to light, though the old Governor himself refuses to be interviewed on the subject. Among those who are known to have made applications are Charles N. Allen, of Steubenville; D. S. Wetzler, of Lancaster; Daniel Bangs, of Toledo (all three these editors); S. B. Axtill, of Columbus; J. H. Mears, of Batavia; Judge Mayo, of Circleville; Dr. J. G. Norton, of Tiffin; J. H. Linton, of Toledo. These are reckoned as the most prominent candidates, though there are probably others who have equally good chances with any of them; others who have not been brought to the surface by the gossip of the politicians and the news-gatherers.

ANENT THE DOGS.

The Granger members have one particular hobby as they meet here from year to year to enact laws—that is, to exterminate the dogs. The dog is their common foe. He has declared war on their flocks of sheep, and they in return declare war on him. During the year 1873, the statistics of which have just been published in the Secretary of State's report, there were over seventy thousand sheep either killed or injured by dogs in Ohio, entailing a loss of $156,318 on the sheep growers. In Richland county the loss was 1,528 sheep and $8,817 in money; in Licking, 1,902 sheep and $5,700 in money; in Muskingum, 1,898 sheep and $3,920 in money; in Belmont, 1,813 sheep and $3,816 in money; in Stark, 1,331 sheep and $8,345 in money. In all there are the counties where the canine ravages were the worst, but there is scarcely a county in the State that did not suffer from them. One grave and dignified Senator has offered a constitutional amendment to be submitted to the people to make a specific tax on the entire race of canines, while several others have endeavored to remedy the evil by unfriendly legislation. But the most novel measure that has been introduced is that of Mr. Harricon, the Representative from Jackson county. His proposition is to apply the principles of the Adair liquor law to them—in a word to make the owners of property whereon they are harbored responsible for their ravages. The land owner who rents out a farm to a tenant becomesurety that the tenant's dogs shall not molest the folds of his neighbors. A good deal of fun was made of this bill during its earlier stages, but it passed the House almost without opposition, and doubtless will go through the Senate. Though now that they are insisting so strongly on modifying the Adair law, what the future may have in store for us. There is even hope for ultimate return to that time always spoken of with great solemnity and impressiveness, and denominated as the better days of the Republic!

THE MAHONING COUNTY SEAT QUESTION, which they attempted to open up again in the Senate early in the session, doesn't promise such richness as was fondly expected. Last year Mahoning was a bonanza to all our Solons here. The Youngstown lobby was the most agreeable, and courteous, and hospitable lobby ever gathered at the State capital. They dined the Solons and wined them. They treated them to theater tickets and to hack rides whenever they chose to go. They danced with the Solons' wives and daughters and took them out to supper, and afterward grace us again in the noble game of draw poker with the husbands and fathers. On all social occasions the urbane lobby was the graceful entertaining corps of the occasion; and when, after keeping them here nearly the whole session, they turned in and passed their bill, it was with brimming eyes that they saw them pack their grips and take their departure for home. And when the Legislature met again this winter they felt that they must have the lobby to entertain. Scarcely had a bill was introduced to repeal the law of last winter, and notice was fairly made out that the fight would all be to go through again. But the Youngstown lobby was too old a bird to be caught with such chaff. Not one of them reappeared, and the bill, which was intended to summon them all to the front again, quietly reposes in the hands of its maker. It will never be brought to light again. The Youngstown people can rest their souls in peace and build their court house as soon as they like.

GUILDEFOILS.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 9, 1875.

The Senate passed the following bills finally: Requiring Recorders to keep general index; Appropriating the amount required to pay the contracts for refitting the two houses; To prevent the sale of liquors near soldiers' encampments.

The following passed second reading: Supplement to the act to establish an Insurance Department: To authorize turnpike and plank road companies to abandon part of parts of their roads to local authorities; Prescribing the manner in which railroad, turnpike and plankroad corporations shall consent to hold their charters subject to the new Constitution.

An act providing for the incorporation and regulation of insurance companies was postponed until Senator Chalfant returns.

The following bills were reported: Preventing cattle from running at large; Providing for the measurement and inspection of timber. [It provides for the appointment, by the court of any county, of a measurer and inspector of timber, with power to inspect all timber offered for sale and reject the unsound. The bill does not apply to lumber, but timber only.]

The following were read in place:

Mr. Cutler—To refund to the Keystone bank, of Erie, the amount in excess of the three mill tax levied in 1870.

Mr. Payne—Giving courts discretionary power over costs and counsel fees in cases of contested wills.

Mr. Rutan—Giving uniformity to divorce decrees made in other States; also authorizing president judges to appoint reporters and fix their compensation.

Mr. Jones—Conferring additional jurisdiction on orphan's courts.

Mr. McClellan—Relating to judicial sales and the preservation of liens of mortgages.

Mr. Ermentrout—Authorizing the holding of separate courts at the same time in counties having two or more law judges.

Mr. Wood—Regulating the practice of medicine. [This bill was framed by the Joint Special Committee.]

Mr. Newmyer—Authorizing State banks to receive deposits.

Mr. McNeill—Relative to the pavement of streets in cities and providing the manner of payment therefor. Following is the bill:

SECTION 1. In addition to the powers at present conferred upon cities, the councils of any city in the State, when proposing to grade or pave any street or part thereof within the corporate limits, the whole estimated cost shall exceed twenty thousand dollars, may provide that the cost shall be payable by said city in instalments, not more than one-fifth of which shall be payable within thirty days of the completion of the work, and the others annually thereafter, with interest from the completion on the unpaid instalments.

SEC. 2. For the purpose of providing means for defraying the cost of said improvements, Councils may issue bonds or other obligations of said city to the amount of the cost, bearing interest and payable in such manner as the bonds and scrip issued may be realized for the instalments aforesaid. Said bonds may be issued at the completion of the work, or during its progress, to an amount not exceeding half the value of the work done, and the balance at its completion. If issued during the progress of the work, interest on the same shall be added to the bonds.

SEC. 3. At its completion the cost shall be ascertained in the usual manner. Thirty days' notice of the payment of each instalment shall be given, as in other cases of grading and paving. It shall be the duty of the City Solicitor to file in the Court of Common Pleas a plan indicating the said street or part thereof improved, the names of the parties assessed, their frontage and assessments, and said assessments shall, six months after the completion of the work, be entered as liens in said court.

SEC. 4. If any instalment is not paid within thirty days from notice, the City Solicitor shall proceed on the lien to judgment by *scire facias* for the amount unpaid and interest and five per cent. attorney's commission, with the right to issue writs and *levari facias* to collect the instalment due, and each subsequent instalment.

SEC. 5. Said assessments shall be prior liens of the property named, shall remain liens until fully satisfied and shall not be divested by judicial sales, except as mentioned or are not critical, retiring in his therein and yet not critical, retiring in his manners and yet not a recluse, a graceful writer and a charming talker, he wasone of those delightful men to be met with anywhere. Radical in his own opinions, he always cheerfully acquiesced in the rights of others to hold theirs, and never was driven into wrangling or vituperative abuse. His best friends were many of them those who opposed him politically. For thirty odd years he bore as an ornament to the editorial profession of the rural press of Ohio. During that time he had gone pretty well through the school of journalism, had written, edited, published, set types, editorials and correspondence, and had shown his culture and strength in all. He was a sort of Admirable Crichton in the belles lettres of his day, and in all the all that he undertook well. I called to see him the day before he died, at his room, in one of the more quiet hotels. A brother and a sister were in attendance upon him, and, although very weak, he had lost none of the quiet cheerfulness which always characterized him. After chatting a half hour with him I rose to go, saying, "Well, good night Mr. Hood, I'll call to see you again in the morning." "Do," said he, "and try to come as early as you can; because"—and here he put his hand under the cover of the bed to hear beating—"because I'll not last much longer. You'll find me here in the morning, but I may be gone by night." And the next night he died without a struggle.

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THE WOOD ESTATE

Report of the Trustees—A Dividend of Ten Per Cent.

Messrs. R. J. Anderson, John J. Spear man and H. W. Oliver, Jr., trustees of the estate of James T. and Charles A. Wood, have prescribed a full report of their transactions to date, for the information of the creditors. The report shows sales of individual and joint property, accounts collected, and other sources, were $825,666 65. The disbursements were $508,589 68, leaving a balance of $316,076. Of the amounts paid out, $140,623 62 were individual claims under order of court; labors at mills, $20,449 80; insurance and taxes, $20,317 58; professional charges for labor, $9,471 86; expenses, discounts, freights, Register's and Marshal's fees, $25,884 27; on collateral note due Mrs. Wood, $385,712 25; on collateral note due trustees under will of James Wood, $27,606 61; and other smaller items.

The trustees have in mortgages and liens on real estate sold, $238,518 99; bills receivable, $20,934 25; due from California and Texas Railway Construction Company, $256,121 66; due from Allegheny Valley Railroad Company, (indorsed,) $47,912 23; a total of $563,700 14. The trustees say that they made every effort to dispose of the mortgages and liens on the real estate sold without success. As soon as they can be sold, a dividend of the proceeds will be made.

The following are memoranda of property remaining unsold, with the value given in bankruptcy schedules: 800 shares of stock in Sligo Iron Company, $200,000; 180 shares Wheatland Coal Company, $50,000; 50 shares Butler and Lawrence Coal, Iron and Oil Association, $5,000; Wheatland Rail Mill, machine shop, furnaces, etc., $1,453,670—total, $1,708,670.

The trustees say: "The Wheatland Iron Works we have kept in good order, but the condition of the iron trade has prevented their sale. The location we consider to be not excelled in this country as a site for a Bessemer rail works. We beg to suggest, in the creditors' interest, consideration of the practicability of their forming a company, and buying the works. The claims against the estate being now held in large blocks, makes the project feasible. If this course be pursued, the creditors become possessed of a valuable property,—expenses incident to bankruptcy proceedings are stopped—and the trustees will be helped to quickly close the business of the estate, and make a final dividend. We shall not relax our endeavors to dispose of all the property in our hands; but it must be apparent to all interested that the condition of the iron trade, since the summer of 1873, has been such as to render impossible to realize on iron property."

Messrs. Wm. Holmes, R. F. Jones and J. H. Jones, Committee of Creditors, having examined the above statement, ordered that out of the balance due the joint estates, a dividend of ten per cent. be declared by the trustees to the general creditors who have proved their claims.

DISASTROUS CONFLAGRATION.

Large Stable Burned—Thirty-five Horses Perish in the Flames—Loss Upward of $15,000.

An extensive fire occurred on Monday morning about five o'clock in the borough of Millvale, on the West Pennsylvania Railroad, opposite Forty-first street. The fire originated in the hay loft of the large stable of Captain Daniel Dempsey, and is supposed to have been caused by sparks from a locomotive. The stable, a large frame, was entirely destroyed, together with thirty-five head of valuable horses. Mr. Dempsey owned sixty-one head of horses and a number of mules, all of which were in the stable at the time of the breaking out of the fire, and so rapid was the spread of the flames that it impossible to get all of the horses out. Indeed, in several instances where the animals were taken out they rushed back again into the fire and perished.

The animals which were lost were mostly large English draft horses, valued at about $300 each. This would involve a loss in horses alone of $10,500. The stable, with its contents of harness, hay and grain, will add about $6,000 to the loss, making it at $16,500. The insurance upon this is only $6,000—$3,000 in the German, and the remainder in the Merchants and Manufacturers' Company, of this city.

The loss is a serious one to Mr. Dempsey, who was engaged extensively in teaming, and from the actual loss sustained, he will suffer largely in the detention of his business.

A blooded horse, belonging to Mr. John Graff, and valued at $3,000, was rescued from the flames.

Some person in the vicinity of Forty-fourth street, seeing the light of the burning stable, supposed the fire was on this side of the river, and turned in an alarm from box 74, corner of Butler and Forty-fourth. This called the Pittsburgh department to that locality, but upon finding that the fire was outside of the city, the firemen returned to their quarters. In responding to the alarm, Hook and Ladder No. 2 met with a mishap. In passing down Forty-fourth street the horses attached to the truck ran away, and were only prevented from precipitating themselves, truck, firemen and all into the river, by the wheels coming in contact with some obstacle which checked the horses in their mad career. As it was, the men in charge narrowly escaped serious injuries.

The Millvale Fire Company, it is said, worked nobly to prevent the spread of the flames to other buildings, in which work they fortunately succeeded.

AN AUDACIOUS ROBBERY.

A Jewelry Store Broken Into and Robbed in View of the Proprietor.

One of the most audacious robberies we ever heard of, was perpetrated at about nine o'clock, on Monday evening, at the jewelry store of Mr. Joseph Koenig, No. 579 Penn avenue, Tenth ward. At the time of the operation, Mr. Koenig sat at work at his bench in the rear of one of the windows, and an employee in a similar position at the other, while the wife, mother and brother of the proprietor were also in the rear of the store. Two men approached the door at the time stated, and quietly placed a piece of board through the hasp of the latch, so that no one could get out. Then a sledge hammer was hurled repeatedly against the plate glass of the lower window, and as soon as a sufficient opening was obtained a tray of twelve gold watches was siezed. The thieves then separated, one going up street and the other down at full speed. The inmates of the store, when they recovered from their surprise rushed for the door but could not get out until a lady who approached was hailed and asked to relieve them. The men were then out of sight, but the tray and eight of the watches were found sometime along the street. The hammer was also found.

Word was immediately sent to the Mayor's office, and officers O'Mara and Mccauley started on hunt of the thieves. Meantime Mayor McCarthy having telegraphed to Detective Scott, who was at the Twelfth ward station house, proceeded to the scene of operation and met the officer named there. Besides the window broken, two glass vases covering ornamental clocks were broken by the thieves. Mr. Koenig does not know the amount of his loss.

BOLD HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

A Dry Goods Clerk Knocked Down and Relieved of Twenty Dollars on the Suspension Bridge.

About ten o'clock Sunday night Henry Wilson, a young man who is employed at the store of Wm. Semple, in Allegheny, while crossing the Suspension Bridge was set upon by two highway robbers, who knocked him down and robbed him of his pocketbook, containing twenty dollars. Mr. Wilson states that the robbers assaulted him when he was about half way over the bridge. They were walking slowly in the same direction that he was going—toward Pittsburgh—only they did not seem to be in a hurry. When he came up with them they stopped, one on each side of the footway, in order to let him pass between them. Just after he passed them he received a stunning blow on the back of the head, which knocked him down, and the robbers then kicked him in the face, knocking out some of his front teeth. After rifling his pockets they ran away. Wilson managed to walk to the house of a friend, on Penn avenue, near Sixth street, where he is at present suffering considerably from his injuries.

Pittsburgh Mortuary Report.

Dr. W. Snively, physician of the Board of Health, makes the following report for the week ending February 6, 1875:

Abscess of lung, 1; accident by burn, 1; accident by railroad, 1; asthma, 1; asphyxia, 1; cerebral apoplexy, 2; congestion of brain, 1; acute bronchitis, 2; chronic bronchitis, 2; capillary bronchitis, 1; consumption, 7; convulsions, 6; croup, 1; cyanosis, 1; diphtheritis, 1; debility, 2; diarrhœa, 2; dropsy, 1; enteritis, 1; typhoid fever, 1; scarlet fever, 7; indigestion, 1; congestion of lungs, 1; marasmus, 1; malformation of heart, 1; meningitis, 1; measles, 1; myelitis, 1; obstruction of bowels, 1; old age, 2; pneumonitis, 8; acute rheumatism, 1; acquired syphilis, 1; unknown, 1; uremia, 1; uterine abortion, 2; whooping cough, 1. Total, 68.

Of these, 67 were white and 1 colored. Married, 21; single, 41; widows, 6. Nativity—Pittsburgh, 33; other parts of United States, 14; Canada, 2; Germany, 7; Ireland, 5; Italy, 1; Wales, 2. Ages—under 1 year, 18; from 1 to 2 years, 9; 2 to 5 years, 6; 5 to 10 years, 1; 10 to 20 years, 5; 20 to 30 years, 7; 30 to 40 years, 8; 40 to 50 years, 4; 50 to 60 years, 3; 60 to 70 years, 3; 70 to 80 years, 3; 80 to 90 years, 1. Localities—City wards, 66; Western Pennsylvania hospital, 1. Mercy hospital, 1.

The Pittsburgh Commercial, always a good newspaper, had an unusually attractive feature in Wednesday's edition. It was a twelve column statement of the business of Pittsburgh for 1874. It requires much diligence and great care to prepare a statistical report of that kind, but a grateful public esteems enterprise and these efforts will bring remuneration!—*Greenville Argus.*

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 10, 1875.

The money market of Pittsburgh is so dull that it is next to useless to attempt to arouse any interest on the part of those who usually are the most active; so that there is nothing particularly new in the condition of affairs at bank to-day.

The cold weather tends to restrict the movement in commercial circles, business is very quiet.

There is no decided desire upon the part of the banks to invite loans outside of the ordinary course of business, and the situation is satisfactory to those who believe in the *laissez faire* theory.

—Mrs. Lydia Bradley, of Peoria, Illinois, has just been elected first director of the First National bank of that city. She is a wealthy widow and a large stockholder of the bank.

Exchange.

We know of another instance in the West of a woman having entered the field of finance in competition with the stronger sex. Miss Mary Clark, an educated, refined and handsome lady of twenty-three summers, is the cashier and active manager of Clark's bank at Newton, Iowa, a successful and prosperous institution that owes its standing to the ability and good judgment of its fair manager. Unwilling to endure the idle, aimless life that is led by most young women of wealth, acting from no necessity, but from natural inclination, she entered into competition with the shrewd bankers of the West, and demonstrated her ability to succeed. In this almost untried field, it seems to us, is an opening for intelligent and educated women who must earn their own livings—as corresponding, collection or discount clerks, or as bookkeepers and tellers. The work is not beyond their strength and ability. In the Treasury Department at Washington some of the best tellers—rapid, correct and reliable—are women, giving equal satisfaction with men who have the same duties to perform.

—A short time since we reported a decision involving the responsibility of a certifying bank when asked to make good the check of a customer, in which it was held that the bank certified only to the signature of its depositor, and to the state of his account.

We now have a decision which looks the other way, and yet both of them were rendered in New York city.

A draft to the order of P. F. Gill, for $46 25, was given by the Mutual National bank of Troy, on the Park National bank of New York city. The draft was raised to $710 25, and the name of B. Gay substituted in place of Gill. It was certified by the Park bank, and the holder deposited it with the Equitable Savings Institution. They in turn deposited it in the German-American bank, which drew the money from the Park bank. Suit was brought by the latter to recover from the German-American bank the amount paid in excess of the sum for which the draft was originally given.

The main point argued was as to whether the certification was to the genuineness of the signature only, or to the validity of the entire draft as presented. The jury rendered a verdict in favor of the German-American bank.

—We have before us the report of M. Mathieu Bodet, French Minister of Finance, which was submitted to the Assembly a few days since. It states that the total charges resulting from the war of 1870 amounted to 6,530 millions of francs, necessitating an increase of 775 millions in the budget of public expenditure. The resources provided by the budget amounted to 710 millions, and a loan was necessary to make up the difference. The report proceeds to say that the real deficit for 1872 was 166 millions, and for 1873, 229 millions. For 1874 it was fifty-two millions. The Budget for 1875 shows a real reflection of twenty-four millions, or rather of sixty-four millions, of the remainder of forty millions is to reimbursement to the Bank of France is taken into account. The Minister estimates the expenditure of the budget of 1876 at 2,616,000,000, and the revenue at 2,528,090,000f., resulting in a deficit of 88,000,000f. In consequence of the repugnance of the Assembly to create fresh imposts, he states that he will seek in economy the means of increasing the revenue. With this object the various improvements are proposed in the indirect taxes, particularly in the case of wine and salts. Measures are also to be taken to remove existing abuses in the adulteration of wines, and for the exercise of a strict control over breweries, distilleries and sugar refineries. In this manner Minister expects to obtain an additional revenue of forty-two and a-half millions.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the St. Clair Banking Company, No. 16 Sixth street:

February 10, 1875.	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:00
	A. M.	A. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.
Gold	114½	114½	114½	114½		
U. S. 5-20's, reg.	117½					
5-20's, 1867	116½	116½	116½	116½		
5-20's, 1865	116½	116½	116½	116½		
5-20's, 1865, reg.	116½	116½	116½	116½		
5-20's, 1868	119½	119½	119½	119½		
10-40's, coupons	117½	117½	117½	117½		
10-40's, registered	117½	117½	117½	117½		
New 5-per cents	115½	115½	115½	115½		
Western Union Tel.	72¾	72¾	72¾	72¾		
Quicksilver	30					
Pacific Mail	27½	27½	27½	27½		
Panama	104½		104½			
Adams Express	105		105			
Wells-Fargo Express	84		84			
American Express	62½		62½			
United States	70		70			
New York Central	101½					
Erie	27¾					
Michigan Central	103½	103½	103½	103½		
Michigan Southern	79¾	79¾	79¾	79¾		
Illinois Central	109½	109½	109½	109½		
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	94					
Chicago & Northw'n	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾		
Do preferred	57					
Rock Island	103½		103½			
N. Paul. common	36½		36½			
Do preferred	67					
Wabash, common	15	14¾	14¾	13½	13½	13½
Fort Wayne	97					
Ohio & Mississippi	30		29½			
Ohio Pacific	80¾	80¾	80¾	80¾		
Harlem	126½		126½			127
Hannibal & St. Jo.						14½
Atlantic & Pacific						14
Do preferred						30
C., C., & I. C.	6	5½	5½	5½		5½
Tennessee, old						67
South Carolina, April						30
Do July						30½
Missouri 6's						98½

—The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Central, sales	55¾	
Pennsylvania Central Scrip	107	
Reading		56¾
Oil Creek	12½	13
Lehigh Valley	55¾	56
Allegheny Valley	91	
Pittsburgh & Connellsville, sales	54	
Empire Transportation		55

GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, February 10, 1875.

There seems to be some ground for entertaining the hope that there will be an improvement in the general tone of the merchandise markets, as there are already signs meading in many respects. There is a more active grain market, over 1,000 bushels of corn and oats having changed hands to-day at the Chamber of Commerce. Produce also is active, compared with the stagnation that ruled in that market last month. Flour continues quiet and sluggish, prices generally in low grades. Groceries are generally dull, business being chiefly in a jobbing way. Provisions are experiencing a steady but rather limited trade, without much change in prices. The following are the total exports of tea from China and Japan to the United States up to the 25d ult. during the periods mentioned with comparisons:

Exp's to date.	Black.	Green.	Japan.	Total.
season	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Cor. period last season	12,747,708	11,574,822	17,384,800	41,977,421
Exp. from Jan. 1 to date	9,762,222	13,866,695	16,872,054	34,500,973
Same time '74	3,776,919	13,597,849	3,779,648	54,553,896
	2,675,824	6,765,656	4,904,640	44,078,928

The exports from the seaboard ports, with the exception of Portland and New Orleans, for last week, were as follows:

	Flour, bbls.	Wheat, bu.	Corn, bu.	Total bu.
New York	8,140	8,140	8,140	16,280
Philadelphia	602	602	0	602
Boston	2,538	3,9	2,555	6,493
Baltimore	12,135	6,045	18,180	24,225
Total	23,415	14,787	28,875	43,662
Same time last year	3,748	3,751	1,500	5,251
Increase	19,667	11,036	27,375	38,411
Decrease				

	Flour, bbls.	Wheat, bu.	Corn, bu.	Total bu.
New York	4,508	5,724	10,232	15,956
Philadelphia	241	261	704	965
Baltimore	20,352	4,443	24,096	28,539
Boston	499	836	1,232	2,068
Total	25,598	11,179	36,108	47,287
Same time last year	1,199	1,959	3,149	5,108
Increase	24,399	9,220	32,959	42,179
Decrease				

The following quotations are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the country, are free of elevator:

GRAIN, FLOUR AND FEED.

GRAIN—The transactions in the grain market have been somewhat limited for a day or two, but were rather larger than over 4,000 bushels having changed hands at the Chamber of Commerce this morning, the value of grain transactions there being about $3,000. Receipts of grain for the week are light, being 24,716 bushels. Transactions have been principally in corn and oats.

FLOUR—There is little doing in wheat now, the unfavorable state of the market for flour here, checking the demand from millers. Receipts for the week are 5,255 barrels. The visible supply of wheat in the country is largely in excess of former years, which would tend to indicate a continuance of the present low prices. We learned of no transactions in Red Winter wheat to-day. No. 2 spring wheat, Kentucky white wheat at $1 20@1 25 @ bushel; extra Michigan white at $1 25@1 27; Ohio and Indiana and Pennsylvania red wheat at $1 14@1 16.

Corn—Receipts of corn have fallen off during the past week about fifty per cent., but are still large, proportionately to the receipts of other grain, having been 15,122 bushels during the past week. The demand is not up to the supply, and there is a downward tone coal of bringing the grain here. The principal feature of the market to-day, was sales of about nine cars of shelled corn at 72c for high-mixed and yellow, and two cars of ear at 70c for white and mixed. This was due, however, to the fact a large consignment of Western corn, was forced on the market, by owners from the shipper, to sell at once. The market is quotable at 70@72c for shelled, high-mixed and yellow; 70@72c for low mixed; ear is quoted at 1 75@75c for white and mixed.

Oats—There is a strong demand for oats, but the present prices do not seem to bring any liberal stock in the market. The tone was firmer, and a shade higher to-day, all offered at 48@50 being readily taken. The receipts are slightly increasing, but are still below the average being 11,330 bushels for the past week. We quote at 50@52c for prime white; 48@50c for mixed.

Barley—There is not enough doing in barley to establish quotations. Receipts were 9,256 bushels for the week, all consigned to brewers direct.

Rye—Receipts are nominal, being only 618 bushels for the week. The market is firm at $1 06@1 12 per bushel.

Seeds—We noted the following sales of grain in car lots at the Board of Commerce to-day: 7 cars shelled corn, high mixed.....72

2 car shelled corn, low mixed.....72

1 car ear corn, prime yellow, on track.....70

1 car ear corn, white.....70

1 car ear corn, mixed.....70

1 car oats, prime white.....55

FLOUR—The receipts for the past week are 3,310 barrels. The market continues dull and unchanged with trade principally in low grades. The following are the wholesale prices of the local millers: No. 1 white wheat flour $7 25@8 bbl; No. 1 amber wheat do $6 50@7 25; best straight roller process, $6 50@7

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1875.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The publishers of our ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE, in the East, having discontinued its publication, we shall be unable to furnish it to subscribers hereafter. We ask the indulgence of our patrons in this matter, for the reason that the failure is wholly beyond our control.

THE defeat of the Canadian Reciprocity Treaty appears to be satisfactory all around. Canada, it was found, did not want it any more than we did, and even Great Britain, which negotiated it, was content to let it go by the board without an effort to save it. The free traders and the smugglers will mourn over its death, but no one else will shed a tear on the doleful occasion. The friends of American industry have every reason to be satisfied with the result.

THE Democrats of the New York House of Representatives complain that, although it is Democratic, it is run by the Republicans. The reason is plain, however. The Democrats are unfit to run it, although in the majority, and, if the machine is to run at all, the Republicans must run it. The Pennsylvania House is in the same predicament. For all the good the Democrats can do them, in both these States, the people might just as well have given the control, outright, to the Republicans.

Here is one illustration of the manner in which the administration vents its "hatred" upon the people of Louisiana. During the outflow of the lower Mississippi, last spring, there was issued in that State, during a period of one hundred and eighteen days, under the authority of an act of Congress, 2,609,022 rations of pork, 2,601,668 rations of corn meal, 168,300 rations of hard bread, and 2,962,240 rations of beans; enough, the Commissary of Subsistence says, to have fed 28,370 persons daily during that time.

THE complete returns of the English Board of Trade for last year show that while the wheat receipts from the United States in 1872 were 8,006,403 cwt., in 1873 they had increased to 19,743,726 cwt., and in 1874 to 23,048,552 cwt., or nearly a threefold increase since 1872. The total receipts of wheat in Great Britain the past year were 41,471,630 cwt., so that more than half of the whole amount was taken from this country. The prospects are also good for a large demand from us right up to the next harvest, which now promises to exceed any previous one.

THE colored children of Indiana having been driven from the common schools of that State by the decision of a Democratic Supreme Court, the Democratic Legislature has now rejected the proposition to admit them to white schools in districts where there are too few scholars to form separate rooms. They are thus denied participation in the benefits of a fund which their fathers contributed to create, and are condemned to lives of involuntary ignorance and darkness. Such is the way in which Democracy shows its love of humanity and justice, and illustrates its faith in civilization and progress.

HON. E. W. STOUGHTON, one of the most prominent Democratic lawyers of New York city, publishes in the New York Herald a second article on the Louisiana question, in which he takes the ground that in recognizing KELLOGG as Governor of Louisiana, the President "acted according to the best light which, at the time, could be shed" upon the scene. After that recognition, it became the bounden duty of every citizen to yield obedience to the constituted authority, notwithstanding it included acquiescence to colored officials. It is not probable that the Democratic press will reproduce his arguments; it possesses such a very different stock in trade from that ordinary kind of Stoughton bitters to which the members of that party are accustomed.

THE significant fact is presented, for the consideration of those Republicans who were so credulous as to look to the Democrats for "Reform," that in New Jersey, the Democratic House of Representatives has been compelled, by a thorough exposure of the truth, to remove its chief clerk for corrupt practices resorted to by him to secure his election. The party did its best to prevent the removal; but when the evidence in the case came to be published, it was too palpably direct to be disregarded. Corruption in New Jersey, and disgraceful inefficiency in Pennsylvania are the natural results of the Democratic victories in those States in 1874. Can any Republican who helped to bring about the "change" tell us of any advantages that have resulted from it?

"TANNIN" is a plant which grows wild throughout the West, and can be obtained almost as cheaply as prairie hay. It will grow anywhere, where the seed is sown, and when once started seeds itself, like other weeds. Experiments lately made in Iowa, in tanning leather by the use of this plant instead of bark, show surprisingly successful results. The time consumed in the tanning process was exactly three weeks, and the profits per hide amounted to $2 45. When it is considered that the leather interest is the second in importance in the United States; that the Eastern States produce seven-eighths of the leather made, and that the West furnishes most of the hides, paying the transportation both ways, the importance of the discovery to that section of the country may be inferred. The cost of tanning by this process is shown by the experiments named to be less than half that of the ordinary method.

IN THE British Province of New Brunswick free schools have recently been established by the Legislature. They are free from all sectarian character or bias, neither is the Bible read nor religion taught in them. And yet news comes that in the town of Caraquet, on the coast of New Brunswick, some hundreds of French fishermen, instigated by the Catholic clergy and Catholic newspaper of the place, have openly rebelled against the schools, violently assaulting and injuring some prominent supporters of the schools. In a struggle between the rioters and the police of the town, a constable was killed and also one of the rioters. It is at once horrible and discouraging to think that in the present enlightened age such scenes for such cause can take place. Those fishermen are of course poor, ignorant people, who have no conception of the injury they are thus inflicting or trying to inflict on their families.

THE Commissioners of the State Debt Fund paid $50,835 45 of the State debt during January, and took action towards calling in $800,000 of the six per cent loans of the Commonwealth, interest on which will soon be stopped, and the bonds will be paid on presentation at the Farmers and Mechanics' National bank, Philadelphia. The amount of State debt heretofore called in and not yet presented, on which interest has been stopped, is $135,433. The general fund of the State Treasury, out of which the current expenses of the State government are paid, was, on February 1st, only $59 04. All the rest of the money in the treasury belonged to the sinking fund. The low condition of the general fund is probably explained by the promptness with which the members of the Legislature have drawn their salaries. If incapable of attending to legislation, the House is, at least, equal to the task of drawing its pay.

A STRANGE case of surgical quackery has lately been exposed and punished in Paterson, New Jersey. One DR. RICARDO, called in to attend a little boy of nine years, named WALTER SCHAEFFER, who had fallen and broken his arm, bound up the limb so tightly and unskilfully that gangrene set in and the member had at last to be taken off to save the child's life. It seems that RICARDO either knew absolutely nothing about his profession or he had conceitedly made up his mind that certain novel methods of his own imagination were alone right. The former, however, appears the more probable theory. On his second visit to the patient, he saw that his treatment had been all wrong, but evidently he didn't know even how to set about correcting his mistaken, and he was wholly unwilling to have another physician called in to save his own reputation was his only concern, and this object, it should seem he thought, could be most easily effected by killing the boy and thus preventing the exposure of his ignorance. He therefore prescribed morphine and left large doses to be administered at regular intervals, assuring the child's mother that he would certainly die. And assuredly he would have died, if the prescription had been followed. But the mother had ceased to confide much in the doctor and withheld the morphine. DR. RICARDO has been tried for malpractice, and sentenced to pay $5,000 indemnity, and he having been also charged by the grand jury with the attempt to kill the boy, his trial for the alleged offense began a few days ago. We have not heard the result. Though there may not be many quacks quite so bad as RICARDO, there are too many. If all the doings of such practitioners could be known, if their blunders and their lucky escapes could be exposed and published, the general public which employs them would be startled and possibly instructed.

MONTI DI PIETA.

It is estimated that the five hundred and ten pawnbroker establishments in New York, Brooklyn, Jersey City and Hoboken yearly lend to the poorer classes of those places money to the amount of four millions of dollars. The ordinary period of the loan is thirty days, and the rate of interest from eight to twenty per cent. For the most part, the articles upon which money is advanced are worth about three times the loan. Much the larger portion of the articles pawned are never redeemed. At from eight to ten per cent. per month the brokers make more than a hundred per cent. annually out of their capital, and the poor classes who resort to them for relief must therefore pay them a yearly tribute of at least four millions of dollars. Of course, also, the brokers make considerable gains by the sale of the unredeemed articles. According to the contemporary from which we derive these facts, a scheme is in agitation in New York to set up public pawn houses to be under communal or municipal regulation and control, copying an institution which has long existed in several European cities. In France, for example, there are sixty such establishments, among them the famous *Mont de Piete* in Paris; in Belgium there are seventy, in Holland eighty, in Russia sixty-five, in Italy one hundred and in Germany seventy.

It is perhaps a reproach to American civilization that this beneficent institution has not yet been fairly introduced into this country. And yet, we suppose that its absence must be referred to the general prosperity of the land, or rather to the comparative ease with which a living is here gained. Except in a few of the larger cities, American families have generally known little of the desperate straits to which families are often reduced in the old world. During the recent hard times, however, much actual and prospective suffering would have been prevented by the existence of "charitable institutions for advancing money on pledges," that is, of *Monti di Pieta*, as they are called in Italy, where they are believed to have originated about the middle of the fifteenth century. The first one was opened in Perugia, and its effects were soon found so excellent that it was speedily copied in Florence, Mantua, Milan and other Italian cities. They were introduced into France in 1777 in consequence of accounts generally circulated of their happy results in Italy. Having been broken up by the storms of the Revolution, they were resuscitated in 1804, but they do not seem to have been formally recognized by the Legislature until quite recently. At present, as already stated, they are numerous not only in France but in most countries of the European continent. In English and Irish towns of the last fifty years the pawnbroker may be said to be a universally recurring character. He is not usually portrayed as remarkable for kindness of heart or graciousness of manner. In the works of fiction alluded to he is generally an Israelite with galls; the liberty thus taken with the Jewish nationality being only one example of the injustice or indifference to justice which marked until lately the appearance of the sons of ABRAHAM in English literature. It is safe to say that the painter sometimes drew his colors from imagination and sometimes avenged or strove to avenge his own wrongs in the person of another.

A Bishop of Winchester is said to have been the first person in England to establish a system of lending on pledges. This was about the close of the fifteenth century. Under the Bishop's system, no interest was taken, and it is easy to see that thus conducted, the business would yield only celestial profits and no filthy lucre. The method was, in fact, merely a part of the system of beneficence by which the Catholic Church relieved the wants of the indigent. But about the time the English Bishop of Winchester devised and applied his mode of lending money on pledges, without interest, the Franciscans administering the *Monti di Pieta* in Italy, began to take interest on the funds advanced, and in 1515 Pope LEO X. expressly sanctioned the practice. Hence one may say that the business of pawnbroking was already established, and when soon after the Reformation some shrewd man in England opened a shop for transactions of the sort with which the world is so familiar, he no doubt seemed a genuine benefactor to the poor and needy. Certainly we are not aware that the practice was attended with any gross abuses at first or for a good while. At any rate it was not until 1756 that the business of English pawnbrokers was regulated by law, and the rate of interest on pledges was not fixed by legislation until 1800. The business was first licensed in 1783, and is at present quite an important source of revenue, the number of persons engaged in the business increasing in proportion to the population.

Doubtless it affords to any miscellaneous community much needed accommodation, and the fact that its opportunities are sometimes abused ought to cast no slur on an entire class. One may trust that a fair proportion of them resist and overcome the peculiar temptations of their calling, and besides do deeds of charity and kindness of which the world hears nothing. It should seem, however, that the business ought to be very carefully regulated by law, as it is in Great Britain at present, and furthermore one can not but wonder that, at least in such cities as New York and Brooklyn, the beneficient spirit which does so much for the poor has not before now established some method by which poor families might obtain temporary pecuniary assistance on pledges, without subjecting themselves to extortion and the speedy forfeiture of their goods, often articles of prime necessity.

THE COST OF AN INCOMPETENT LEGISLATURE.

It costs, in round numbers, $500,000 to hold a regular session of the Pennsylvania Legislature. The salaries and mileage of two hundred and fifty-one members, and the salaries and mileage the officers of the two Houses, cost $350,000, and the items of postage, printing the *Legislative Record*, and other incidental expenses, will cost the remaining $150,000. We are therefore safe in treating the cost of a regular session at half a million of dollars.

For the large sum the State deserves to receive a proper attention to its interests and necessities from those to whom or for whom it incurs so great an expense. The members of both Houses certainly owe to the State whose interests have been confided to their hands, that attention to the various projects of legislation proposed which their importance demands.

Yet what do we see? The Legislature has now been a month in session, and what has it done? It has passed two laws, one a general bill, and the other a local one, for Philadelphia, and it has passed a joint resolution to adjourn finally on the 18th of next month. Beyond that, the joint action of both Houses amounts literally to *nothing*. The Republican Senate meets regularly, disposes daily of the business before it, attends promptly and properly to whatever is submitted to its consideration, and is fully up with its work and its duties. Its members seem to be conscious of their responsibilities, and conscientious in the discharge of them. But what of the Democratic House of Representatives?

That body was captured at the election of 1874, upon pledges and promises of "Reform," that were made so profusely as to deceive the people into trusting those who made them. It met in Harrisburg under a general expectation that the huge promises of "Reform" made by the majority of its members, before their election, would be redeemed, or that an attempt would be made, at least, to show that there was a willingness to try to redeem them. Yet this "Reform" body commenced its session by electing or appointing more officers than the law allows, trusting to chance for the payment of the officers thus illegally put into place, the majority being utterly unable otherwise to satisfy the enormous greed for petty place developed by their victory, and the session thus illegally begun has been protracted, now, for five weeks, without accomplishing anything in the way of legislation whatever. The House has concurred in two bills which originated in the Senate, but beyond that has done literally nothing, except to cover itself with that degree of suspicion which usually results in disgrace.

The history of Pennsylvania is without a parallel to this. No House ever assembled before of which it could be said that it had been five weeks in session without being able to perfect one piece of legislation, or get sufficient public business in readiness to keep itself employed; and we venture to say that no legislative body ever before met at the seat of government that was so utterly incapable of comprehending, much less of discharging, its duties.

It is fair to presume, from the experience of the five weeks which close to-day, that the House does not intend to *try* to face the duties incumbent upon it; but will trifle the public time away until the day of final adjournment, when it will disperse, to the total neglect of the public business. The legislation needed by the State will receive no attention; the wants of the community will be unheeded; and the State will have the privilege of paying the sum of half a million of dollars for the support of a body utterly useless to it through the neglect or incapacity of the popular branch of it.

The responsibility for this state of things must rest where it properly belongs. The Republican Senate has faithfully performed its duty, so far, and stands prepared to do its share of the work which is incumbent upon it. No blame is due, there. Whatever the State has a right to look for, from that branch of the Legislature, will be performed. It is upon the Democratic House of Representatives, alone, that the responsibility must rest. It, alone, is obstructing the public business; and it, alone, is neglecting its public duties.

The failure of this Democratic branch of the Legislature to meet the wants of the State, and its incapacity to adapt itself to the necessities of the situation, come in, happily, to prove how incompetent the Democratic party is to meet or satisfy, or comply with any want or wish of the people. "Reform" is not its vocation. It has been trusted by the people, in this instance, with the work of bringing about salutary changes and inaugurating improved methods of government; and it has responded by greedily grasping at the spoils of office and refusing to do anything else whatever. It is a sorry ending to a delusive beginning, but if the people of Pennsylvania learn from it wear again to trust in the lying promises of a party incapable, from its very composition, of accomplishing anything good, the half million spent in learning the lesson will not have been utterly thrown away.

THE CRACK OF THE SOUTHERN WHIP.

We have before expressed our conviction that, with the return of the Democracy to power, the restoration of the old time predominance of Southern habits and Southern leadership was sure to follow. The Democratic party, when it was formerly in control of the Government, was noted for its subserviency to the South; and the Southern leaders, well aware of their power over their Northern allies, as well as sure of their support in any emergency, always felt free to treat the then rising public sentiment of the North with contempt, and to pour out the most violent abuse upon all who stood up against them. The crack of the slave-holder's whip in Congress was then a constantly familiar sound. It was resorted to whenever occasion offered, and when it failed to menace and subdue, the club, the pistol or the bowie-knife was a convenient substitute.

The war changed all that, and the sharp twang of the Southern lash has not been heard in the halls of Congress for many years; but no sooner does the South realize the fact that the Democracy has obtained possession of the next House of Representatives, than it rushes to the front to lead the party which of old belonged to it so completely, and we again hear the shrill chord of the slavemaster's instrument of torture. The same insolence which characterized the Southern members of Congress prior to 1861, the same violently abusive spirit, the same tyrannical and overbearing manner, are all again apparent in the House. The vehement, denunciatory style which used to characterize the blustering speeches of KNITT, TOOMBS, PRYOR, and a host of other Southern HOTSPURS, was again perceptible in the disgraceful speech for which the young puppy, BROWN, from Kentucky, was censured at the bar of the House on Thursday last, and the spirit shown by McLEAN, of Texas, on the day previous, was in no way to the standard of Southern bravado and bluster which prevailed from 1832 to 1861. The House, it is true, in this instance, vindicated itself by voting its censure upon the head of the Kentucky offender; but his Democratic colleagues, North and South, stood by him to a man, patted him on the back, and encouraged him, and all the other Southern hot-bloods, to bring back, once more, the plantation manners and the domineering insolence which disgraced Congress so thoroughly in former times, so that the censure of the House effected nothing, really, beyond a vindication of its dignity.

The Democratic party was always a Southern party, and always will be. Its public men, in the North, were the mere slaves of Southern masters, as they are today. The collar of the born serf is around their necks, inscribed, "I am the slave of the South, whose slave are you?" COX and RANDALL and WOOD did not dare to show their teeth and snarl like BROWN and MCLEAN; but they were not beneath fetching and carrying for them and playing the bond-servant thoroughly.

We are, then, it is plain, upon the threshold of another era of Southern domination. As it lasts it will be a reproduction of the ante-war era. The South will lead, and the South will rule, thrusting all such unpersoriceable creatures as WOOD and COX into the back ground; Southern orators will spit fire, as of old, will curse like drabs, and pour out the vials of their wrath upon every Northern man who dares to confront them; and the Democratic victories of 1874 will simply produce the results which flowed from similar victories in 1856. Violence will take the place of argument, tyranny the place of persuasion, and low vituperation the place of reason. Some new bully BROOKS will arise to knock down, from behind, some outspoken Northern member or Senator, and some new Hanging Judge Parker will threaten the gallows to all who dare to differ with him. Free speech will be again denied, and the Democratic Jubilee, with the advent of which COX was so much enamored the other day, will prove to be a reversal of all the other jubilees that were ever heard of, in that it will signalize the return of the Northern Democracy to their old serfdom and "Proclaim slavery throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." Of such a jubilee none but a born thrall, like COX, could be glad.

That such a reaction, back to the practices of a period now almost forgotten, can last long, is scarcely possible; and after the country has had a taste of the evils of the slave-drivers who are now coming to the front, we feel sure it will be glad of the first chance to escape from it. Let MR. BROWN and his Southern associates, therefore, make good use of their opportunity, for they never will get another. The Northern hounds who are now cringing at their feet, have not forgotten the sound of the whip which always had a terror for them; but that generation is fast dying out, and the one that is coming up to take its place is happily made of sterner and better stuff.

THE diocese of Toronto is at present the scene of an exceedingly lively controversy on the subject of Ritualism. Touching such a matter, we do not like to use strong terms, but really if any functionaries less dignified and exalted than bishops and deans were involved in this Canadian quarrel, we might stretch a point and characterize the state of mind of the disputants as violent or even fierce. A society consisting of members of the so-styled Evangelical party of the clergy seems to have been the immediate cause of this dispute. The object of the society is to print and circulate books and tracts in defense of Evangelical truth and the principles of Protestantism. No one will be surprised to learn that some of the publications issued for this excellent purpose have been marked by exceeding plainness of speech. In them prominent clergymen of High Church views have been denounced as teachers of false doctrines, as Papists slightly disguised, etc., and a favorite college or university of the same party has been described and held up to popular reprobation as a nursery of Popery. In fact these criticisms caused so much talk in Toronto and throughout the diocese, that DR. BETHUNE, the Bishop, at length felt compelled to take formal notice of them, which he did in a visitation sermon, by confidently denying that the offensive allegations of the tracts concerning either clergymen or the college could be established by investigation. Furthermore, while lamenting the extravagance of clergymen who had introduced innovations in worship or doctrine, the Bishop showed plainly enough that he thought there had been small cause of complaint on that score, and that he felt little sympathy with the no Popery alarmists of the association, whom indeed he referred to as reckless slanderers. After the sermon, when the lay portion of the audience had withdrawn, formal charges of having depraved the government and discipline of the church were laid against the Dean of Toronto, two Rural deans, and several other clergymen, all these gentlemen being members of the Church Association. It was then announced that a commission would be issued to investigate the charges and the indications are that before long the result will be a trial for heresy. What gives a certain peculiar interest to the subject is the intense excitement to which the affair has given rise among the laity of the diocese of Toronto. The lay members of the Church Association have published a reply to the Bishop's visitation sermon, and the spirit and tenor of their work seem to imply a thoroughly earnest determination on the part of the non-clerical element of the denomination either to put down Ritualism or to separate themselves from its contamination.

THE adoption, by the House of a part of the National Democratic platform of 1872, recognizing the equal right of men of all races to the protection of the Government, as a preamble to the Civil Rights bill, was a shrewd stroke of political policy, for it afforded a fair illustration of the utter insincerity of the Democrats in their political professions. This party, in the National Convention at Baltimore which nominated GREELEY, adopted a resolution recognizing "the equality of all men before the law," and declaring it "the duty of the Government to mete out equal and exact justice to all men of whatever nativity, race, *color* or persuasion." Nothing could be broader or more comprehensive than this; and the Civil Rights bill, as it passed the House, was but an effort to carry it into effect. It was a bill to "mete out equal and exact justice to all men of whatever nativity, race, color or persuasion;" nothing less and nothing more. Yet every Democrat in the House voted against it, and every Democrat in the land is howling against a measure which is but an embodiment of the National Democratic platform of 1872. Either the party was dishonest in making such professions in 1872, or it is dishonest in resisting their application, now; and it can take either horn of the dilemma it chooses.

MR. NIBLACK, indeed, says the party adopted this as part of its creed "under coercion and intimidation;" by which, we suppose, he means to say that it felt impelled to play the hypocrite in order to catch the Liberal Republican vote; but it is saying that he simply admits that his party was dishonest, and professed what it did not believe, for the sake of attaining success. It did not intend to do what it promised.

And it never does. It is always profession one thing and doing another; and when it is most profuse in declarations that sound well, it is most certain of giving the lie to them when the time for action comes. Its declarations are for effect, merely. It never means to do what it says, and it never says what it means to do. Its entire policy is fraud, prevarication and double dealing. Its platforms are glittering generalities, and its acts invariably give the lie to them. It carried BELL into the Presidency in 1844 as a friend of the Tariff of '42, and repealed that Tariff in two years after. It set up the cry of "54° 40' or fight," on the Oregon boundary question, and in a short time afterwards surrendered the boundary to 49°. It was the first to enunciate the principle of "Squatter Sovereignty," and when "Squatter Sovereignty" worked against it, set the principle at naught. It has, consequently, been consistent in its inconsistency, in this instance, of setting up Equality of Human Rights as a Democratic doctrine, and then abandoning it on the first opportunity.

PERSONAL.

The friends of Hon. Joseph Medill, the new editor of the Chicago *Tribune*, think he is working too hard. He is beginning to show the effects of over-work, they say.

A rich gentleman of New York, a bachelor, who had left ten thousand dollars in his will to Charles Kingsley, has now insured at the bar of the House on Thursday last, and their spirit shown by McLEAN, of Texas, on the day previous, was in no way to the standard of Southern bravado and bluster which prevailed from 1832 to 1861. The House, it is true, in this instance, vindicated itself by voting its censure upon the head of the Kentucky offender; but his Democratic colleagues, North and South, stood by him to a man, patted him on the back, and encouraged him, and all the other Southern hot-bloods, to bring back, once more, the plantation manners and the domineering insolence which disgraced Congress so thoroughly in former times, so that the censure of the House effected nothing, really, beyond a vindication of its dignity.

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The editor of the Dayton *Journal* has been out in the country running around loose. Hear him: "Lecturers and spooney editors are bewailing the physical degeneracy of American girls. Bosh. Go into the country and you will find lots of girls who will walk all day, dance all night, eat breakfast at sunrise, iron all day, and dance all night, all winter."

Modern Dogberries. On the trial of a man in the Circuit Court of Fairfax county, Va., a day or two since, for pointing a gun at a neighbor, the jury brought in the following verdict: "We send the prisoner to the penitentiary for one year. This verdict not being in proper form the judge reinstructed the jury, who again returned, this time with the verdict: "*Guilty of murder in the first degree!*"

The condition of Bishop Odenheimer, of New Jersey, causes much anxiety. Soon after his arrival in Europe, he began to improve rapidly, and his physicians held out strong hopes of a complete cure. But the last letter from Mrs. Odenheimer says there is a marked change for the worse in the condition of the Bishop, that she is "terribly afraid of the result," and requests the prayers of friends. This is sad news for the people of his diocese, who have for the bishop the love of children for a father.

The "Young Idea" in Russia.

The Russian Government is examining the subject of common school education throughout the empire. From late reports the general standard of education among the peasants and poorer classes is found to be falling, and the attendance at schools diminishing. The schools themselves are dying out in the rural districts and the children are receiving education of the hands in labor, instead of the head in school. One great cause of ill-success of the present village schools is the enormous number of saints' days and other holidays in the Greek Church calendar—stated in one report by a provincial Governor to reach two hundred in the year. The zeal of the Church is thus eating up a good deal more than half the time, and rooting out all educational efforts. The Government finds itself obliged to step forward in the interests of enlightenment and progress. Russia cannot afford to recede grade for the sake of all the saints in the calendar, and the authorities are engaged in blotting them out so far as the school books and school children are concerned. The privy council at St. Petersburg is elaborating a project for compulsory education for all children between seven and eleven years of age, who live within two miles of a school. By this regulation Christmas day, Twelfth day, Lady-day, Good Friday and the week before Easter are to be the only recognized holidays during the school months, which must be seven months of the year in rural districts, and ten in cities and towns. Fines are to be inflicted upon parents and guardians for absences, not in any case to exceed two days' wages of a workingman. Before thus regulation can go into effective operation the Government will have to provide a school house for every circuit of two miles in the vast Russian territory, and a school teacher for every school house. What would have been the fight end of the educational question to begin at.

LAST week there was presented to the Sheffield Scientific school, connected with the Yale college, by Mr. Wm. Wallace, of Ansonia, who for many years has made a special study of electricity and magnetism, a monster magnet, together with the accessories necessary for the study and illustration of magnetic phenomena. There is but one magnet in the country greater than this. It was made by Mr. Wallace a few years ago and is now at the Stevens Institute of Technology. The Yale magnet weighs 1,000 pounds, and is capable of lifting twenty times that weight, or about ten tons when in full action. It will prove an acquisition to the department of physics, and in view of the lectures on the subject of magnetism soon to be given at the college, will afford means of valuable instruction to the students and to the public.

In 1840, little more than a generation ago, the members of the Baptist Church in this country were as one to every thirty of the whole population; they are now not less than as one to every twenty-three. Their growth has been, therefore, more rapid than the population of the most rapidly peopling country in the world.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Rant without warrant. This Southern war rant.

The next National Republican Convention ought to be held in Pittsburgh.

Massachusetts thinks of providing for art education in places of five thousand inhabitants or over.

Augusta, Ga., boasts of the most active Young Men's Christian Association south of Washington.

There is some prospect that tea and coffee will presently be cheaper than they have been for years.

The ice harvest on the Hudson thus far is estimated at 2,500,000 tons, and the crop is valued at $28,000,000.

The price of admission to the Centennial Exposition has been fixed at fifty cents for a single admission.

A hard beverage. A New Hampshire farmer has five hundred barrels of cider, but not a drop of water.

A one cent morning paper will be started in New York next Monday, under the title of the *Daily Telegraph*.

Andy Johnson will participate in the Mardi Gras tomfoolery of Memphis, to-day. A most appropriate idea.

"Borrasca" is what they call the great fall in San Francisco mining stocks. It is the antithesis of "bonanza," and means "a storm."

"God is everywhere," says the Catechism. But He isn't in the Constitution."—*Cincinnati Times*. Neither in all of the churches.

The Street Commissioners of Boston say that they want three thousand of Christine Nilsson's notes for improving her property in that city.

New York has a citizen who doesn't want office. He actually declined a place on the Supreme Bench. His name is Hand. Hand it down.

Chicago, with considerably more than double the population of San Francisco, has not one-fifth the amount of the latter's savings deposits.

That scandal case is pronounced by the Brooklyn *Argus* the most "exceptional" case on record. The defense has already taken 117 of 'em.

John Jacob Astor tried to avoid paying $37,000 of his taxes, but a chief court has week decided him liable. Pity the sorrow of a poor old man.

Since the discovery of borax in California, the price of that article has declined from thirty-five to fifteen cents per pound, and is still going down.

A Chicago jury has decided that a man may ring an auction bell as much as he pleases on the streets, and that even the Mayor cannot stop him.

An excellent idea. Boston proposes to take from all the "lodgers" in the station houses work enough to insure compensation for the lodgings given.

A correspondent wants to know how far apart the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were. We think, about the same distance as New York and Brooklyn.

The jury of inquest on the body of the burglar lately shot by Rush Burgess, in Richmond, a few days since, brought in a verdict of "commendable homicide."

The Baltimoreans have put four millions in their new city hall. The building is of white marble, not so large as the Capitol at Washington, but more elegant.

The famous Mary Ann Baker, the rich man's daughter, who years ago married her coachman, John Dean, is one of the lady examiners at the New York Custom House.

There seems to be a general movement among thoughtful people in favor of eliminating from the public school studies all branches not strictly belonging to an elementary education.

The St. Louis *Republican* says: "Senator Gordon is a mixture of David and Jacob." This probably means that he can wrestle with a sling and still see through the rounds of a ladder.

A model silk factory, complete in itself, to be operated by skilled workmen, illustrating the American silk manufacture in all its branches, will form one of the attractions of the Centennial.

A very rich bed of nickel has just been discovered in Norway, which will probably have the effect of reducing the price, and encouraging and extending the manufactures into which it enters.

Considering the quantity of smoke in this city, and that where there's so much smoke there must be some fire, the St. Louis *Times* thinks our last year's record of blazes is remarkably small.

Robert M. Douglas, son of Stephen A. Douglas, now Marshal of the Western District of North Carolina, is to be investigated concerning the unusual expenditures of his office. No charges of fraud are preferred.

Eastern dry goods dealers report a firmer feeling in the general market, owing to the curtailment of production, resulting from the stoppage of mills, caused by the drought throughout New England and the Northern part of New York.

The French are all alive to the Centennial. They regard it as the event of the age, and they recall, with characteristic pride, the efficient aid of Louis XVI. to the American colonies, and the romantic story of young Lafayette.

It is safe to assert that a lease for 999 years has never run out in this country, but this has recently occurred in England. The land was church property 1,000 years ago, but was leased to the crown for military purposes. There was an unbroken continuity of possession from the time of Alfred the Great.

Some of the capitalists of New York are trying to establish the custom of extending mortgages by an agreement of alternative payment, giving the option, whenever any instalment of principal or interest is demanded or tendered, of electing to receive payment in gold coin at the rate of gold when the contract of extension is made.

STATE NEWS.

There are still cases of trichinae in Erie and vicinity.

A banquet to soldiers of the war of 1812 will be given at the Cullum House, Meadville, on the 23d inst.

$11,284,624 72 is the sum now held by the Philadelphia Savings Fund for its depositors; all are not spendthrifts.

Mrs. George Shearer, of Cumru, sold 3,506 pounds of butter in the West Reading market house during 1874.

Vast deposits of iron ore are said to exist in the vicinity of Jacksonville, along the Reading and Lehigh Railroad.

A legal squabble is now in progress over the estate of the McBrides who were murdered by Wade near Williamsport.

A number of residents of Corry have formed a colony to settle in California, and leave shortly for that far-off land of gold and silver.

The East German Conference of the United Brethren in Christ, will meet in Reading, on the 17th inst., and continue in session one week.

The subscriptions to the Keating and Karthaus Railroad stock amount to $40,750. As soon as $105,000, is subscribed the company will be organized under the general railroad law.

The Washington *Reporter* says that farmers in that county are hiring work hands at $25 to $30 per month, where they board themselves, and from $15 to $18 per month and boarded.

The district convention of the Patriotic Order Sons of America, of Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin and Cumberland districts will be held at Mount Joy, Lancaster county, on Monday, February 23d.

Mayor Stauffer, of Lancaster, has sued the *Intelligencer* of that place for libel, for saying that he had, during his term of office, charged exorbitant and illegal fees, and has drawn from the county treasury hundreds of dollars to which he had not a shadow of right.

In York county, the York *Press* says, the prosecution of liquor cases under the present law has cost during the past year $6,258 92. This follows from the facility with which prosecutions can be instituted on information by parties who do not appear in the suits.

Francis Boyer (colored), West Goshen, in order to destroy the potato bugs off his vines, last fall, cut slips containing the bugs from his potato vines, and deposited them in his manure heap. Upon his removing the manure lately he found enbedded in the heap myriads of eggs laid by the same bugs. Farmers cannot be too careful in destroying the bugs entirely.

On Tuesday morning last the family of Rev. John Zulich, of Stinesville, on the Reading and Lehigh Railroad, were startled to learn that some time during the night, the reverend gentleman had breathed his last. On Monday evening he retired in his usual good health, having during Monday christened a child. He died of a stroke of apoplexy, and was about seventy years of age. He preached in the above neighborhood for a long period of years, and was the oldest Reformed minister in that section. His ministry extended over a period of fifty years.

THE COUNTY WORKHOUSE.

MR. CORDIER'S FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

A VERY GRATIFYING EXHIBIT.

Earnings, $71,033 61; Expenditures, $57,739 84; Gain to the County, $13,293 77.

Important Suggestions as to Vagrants and Tramps—New Buildings—Depression in the Barrel Business—The Manufacture of White Lead Kegs—Future Financial Prospects, Etc., Etc.

Below we print the report of Mr. Henry Cordier, Superintendent of the County Workhouse, for the year ending December 31, 1874. The report is of interest, not only to every taxpayer in the county, but to all who are concerned in the progress of penal and reformatory institutions. We ask for the report a careful perusal:

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY WORKHOUSE, CLAREMONT, December 31, 1874.

To the Board of Managers:

GENTLEMEN.—I have the honor to submit for your consideration my Fifth Annual Report as Superintendent of the Workhouse, showing the condition and progress of the institution during the fiscal year ending December 31, 1874.

STATISTICS.

At the date of my last report, December 31, 1873, the number of inmates in this institution was 455. There were received from January 1, 1874, to December 31, 1874, inclusive, 2,395; viz.: 2,026 males, and 369 females. During the same period there were discharged by expiration of sentence, 2,173; by commutation, 82; by order of Court, 67; by Governor's pardon, 16; 31 escaped and 4 died, making in all 2,373—leaving now in confinement 534 inmates, viz.: 460 males, 74 females.

The number of commitments during the past year was 324, and our daily average 101 larger than the previous year.

Whoever is acquainted with the different classes of prisoners who compose the ordinary population, will at once perceive that the workhouse rapidly changes its character from a penal into a charitable institution. As a usual, a great many persons are committed who, from their physical, mental, and even moral condition, are not proper subjects for prison discipline, and, as merely consumers, are a constant drain upon our industries and productive labor. If the character of the institution shall be maintained, it seems to me evident that some additional legislation is wanted, either to prevent the committal of these unfortunate persons, or, if committed at all, to authorize the reduction of a certain amount of cost for their support and maintenance. A law of the kind, as lately suggested, would undoubtedly soon remedy the evil.

In this connection it may be proper to state that the County, in addition to the expense of the center, has been literally overrun, during the past year, by the worst classes of "tramps" from all parts of the country. These nonresident vagrants and paupers contributed in a large degree to our population, and have contained that charitable relief which was perhaps denied them at home. It is true, while some of these voluntarily sought a refuge within our protecting walls, many would have gladly "moved on," or returned to their former places of abode, if our police authorities, in their inscrutable wisdom, had not preferred to tender them as a very undesirable, and in many cases a *permanent*, donation to the penal and charitable institutions of the county.

FINANCIAL.

Notwithstanding the general depression of business throughout the country, and the attendant injurious effects upon all manufacturing interests, it is gratifying for me to be able to state that the year last closed has been one of continued financial prosperity to the institution.

The cash earnings of the Workhouse for the year, after having deducted the sum of $5,000, being the depreciation of value of barrel material on hand, has been as follows:

In the barrel factory	$33,575 91
In brick yard	4,080 93
In the laundry	3,577 93
Total	$71,033 61

And the ordinary expenditures during the same time, for boarding, clothing and guarding the prisoners, fuel and light, medicines, gratuities, &c., have been | $57,739 84

Leaving a gain of | $13,293 77

This amount, of course, does not include the work done by prisoners' labor in the construction of different permanent improvements, and in excavating, filling and grading the grounds, laying pipes, &c., the value of which, a dollar saved is a dollar *earned*, this amount, as adding that much to the value of our assets, is justly regarded as part of our productive labor, and enhances the surplus of income over expenditures for the year to that extent.

INVENTORY.

Under ordinary circumstances, when the market value of stock and products is not disturbed by sudden changes, the annual inventure is comparatively little trouble in making a correct inventory. It is exceedingly difficult, however, to fix an estimate of value in a time like the present, of the certainty which is afforded by daily sales when the market is in a normal condition. Appreciating the difficulties, and conscious of the difficulties that arise from the uncertainty of everything relating to the future, the Workhouse is principally engaged, the foremen of the several departments of the factory, the Steward, Clerk, Gardener and Engineer were instructed to exercise more than ordinary care in taking the inventory of the property which they have well performed. A deduction of fifteen or nearly 15 per cent., has been made in the original cost of the stock on hand, for its depreciation of value, as compared with present prices. I consider this deduction quite sufficient, especially on account of the *superior* quality of the material, freely acknowledged by all experts, after a careful examination by those who had occasion to give it a critical examination.

THE IMPROVEMENTS

during the past year have been principally confined to the erection of the new female prison, and the walls surrounding its premises.

The prison proper, or cell-room, having been so far completed in October last, that the female inmates could